### Tunis minister quits rights forum

TUNIS (R) - A cabinet minister stormed out of a us congress of Tunisia Human Rights League on Saturday and the movement's president announced he was relinquishing his job after a two-year row with the state. League President Moncel Marzouki announced he was quitting after a prolonged campaign for the independence of one of North Africa's most active campaign groups. The dramatic incidents happened during debate on whether the organisation should abide by a 1992 law obliging the league to open up its membership. Many in the group interpreted the law as a way to dilute the league's effectiveness in campaigning for human rights. Members decided to disband rather than obey. The government only allowed the movement to resume activities in mid-1993, even then only to prepare for the congress and adapt itself to the new law.

Volume 18 Number 5531

AMMAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1994, SHA'BAN 25, 1414

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#### one, thinks he pro-israeli militiamen a public relationship & MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) y the prince: Hizboilah guerrillas launy the princes — Hizboliah guerrinas naunds to refunds the Israeli-occupied zone in Whitaker the Israeli-occupied zone in or's royal Sooth Lebanon, wounding or's royal cont Lebanon, would apply three militiamen, security Prince Charles three militiamen, Prince Charles sources said Saturday. The fince was our three members of the Israelirince was only backed South Lebanon Army backed South Lebanon Army backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were wounded when a roadside bomb blew up near line in love. purported to their patrol inside the zone late ee Sunday, they said. Hizbollah ee Sunday ne that the pa bombs and heavy machine guerrillas: also fired mortar ith the 46-year. army brigader; guns at two SLA posts and obstacles; assault rifles at an Israeli army obstacles 10 1 scension to a Braschit. There were no inpatrol ocar the village of

juries in these attacks. Israeli

and SLA artillery inside the

15-kilometre enclave shelled a

string of villages, causing dam-

#### pring phone c Parker Bowle vo. But Mr. N. lichard Kay t Cairo trial begins royal corresp. after witness killed

age but no casualties.

ed Monday t CAIRO (AFP) - The trial of militants accused of trying to kill Prime Minster Atef Sedki opened bere Saturday bours after gunmen shot dead a key prosecutioo witness. The nine defendants remained silent as proceedings began at Cairo's high military court, Egyptian journalists reported. The trial opened after unidentified gunmen killed automobile dealer Sayed Ahmad Yehia in his showroom north of Cairo overnight Friday (see page 2). A Archdeacon a lawyer specialising in trial of Austin, has a militants said Mr. Yehia's death would have little impact on the outcome of the proceedings; which be alleged were determined in advance. Jour-1. Prince Charle. nalists for foreign news organisations were banned from

#### iran launches ince and price women-only taxis

the courtroom.

December 1999 : ustody of the TEHRAN (AFP) — The Ira-1. 11. and Ham. man taxi company has set aside 300 taxis to cater exclusively for women, as part of moves to segregate men and women according to Islamic principles, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. The experimental plan went into effect on Saturday in the Iranian capital, and has already been welcomed by Iranian women, who often resent being squeezed between male passengers to small taxis, IRNA said. The new taxis, all with male drivers, have a red and white tag displayed on their windows for distinction. Men and women have already been segregated in buses, with women riding the rear half of

#### Red Cross visits Kuwaiti held in Iraq

KUWAIT (R) - The Internaconal Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Saturday its officials bad visited a Kuwaiti being detained in an Iraqi prison for illegal entry. fCRC offiial Jean-Philippe Lavoyer said by telephone colleagues sta-tioned in Baghded bad visited Falah Mohammad Al Rasbidi in Abu Ghraib prison near the traci capital in late January and found him in good bealth. The ICRC will cononue its efforts to protect and assist him (Rashidi) and we will also facilitate his contacts with bis family io Kuwait," Mr. Lavoyer said. Kuwait-based Lavoyer said Mr. Rashidi was not one of the hundreds of Kuwaitis the emirate says are still held by Baghdad following detention during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation. Iraq denies it still holds any Kuwaitis arrested

## Bahrain's emir holds

talks with Hoar MANAMA (R) — Bahraini Emir Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa beld talks Saturday with a U.S. general on boosting military cooperation between the two countries. The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency said Sheikh Isa also reviewed latest Gulf developments with General Joseph grass, not the lice said. He Hoar, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command. It gave no further details. Bahrain signed military coopcration agreements last month with the United States and

# Deputies rally behind Malhas, demand probe

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputies Saturday turned the tables in favour of Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas on the second day of a special session that started off with severe criticism of Dr. Malhas for "failing" to substantiate his charges that much of food and medicine that reaches the market is unfit for consumption

Sixteen out of 19 deputies who took the floor urged support for Dr. Malhas while one weot against him and two others projected neutral posidons but called for a thorough investigation of his allegations, which appeared in a weekly tabloid over two weeks ago.

Many deputies unleashed severe criticism against the government as they expressed support for Dr. Malhas while others criticised fellow parliamentarians for "turning (Dr. Malhas) into a suspect" instead of supporting him.

The majority of lawmakers demanded that the general prosecutor be entrusted with investigating the charges, which landed the government m the biggest political crisis since it won the confidence of the House in December.

The 16-member Islamic Aetion Froot (IAF) and deputies Toujan Faisal and Theeb Abdullab joined Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughmi in urging the House to withdraw confidence from the govern-

TEL AVIV (Ageodies) -

Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-

mon Peres said Saturday that

be did not expect to wrap up an

agreement with the Palestine

Liberation Organisation

(PLO) this week on im-

plemeoting Palestinian auton-

Mr. Peres also played down

reports of a rift between him

and Israeli army commanders

wbo allegedly criticised him for

making too many concessions to PLO Chairman Yasser Ara-

fat on security issues. The re-

ports said Prime Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin was siding with the

Mr. Peres told Israel army

radio in an interview from New

York. "The things we (Peres

and Arafat) agreed on were

agreed on after consultations

Mr. Peres said he and Mr.

Rabin differ occasionally, but

only proceed in the peace

negotiations once they reach common ground. "I believe

with the prime minister."

"There is no basis to this,"

generals.

Peres does not see

ment for what some of them called its inability to deal properly with the corruption charges raised by Dr. Malhas. Lawmaker Abdullah Akhu

Irsheideh said that there was an obvious need for a major reshuffle in the government so that it could have a stronger parliamentary base and thus have a more efficient cooperation between legislative and executive authorities.

The IAF, Mr. Dughmi and Ms. Faisal were among the 29 deputies who withheld confidence from the government in December. Mr. Abdullah was absent when the vote was taken and Mr. Akhu Irsheideh was among the 41 lawmakers who voted in favour of the government. The IAF deputies "blamed"

Dr. Malhas for "watering down" the original charges he made in his press interview when he spoke on the issue few days later on Jordan Television and in his speech to the House on Wednesday, saying that pressure must have been applied on him.

But they said they agreed with him that there was corruption in the country and that unfit food reaches the market and that some food mercbants applied pressure to have their sub-standard goods approved

In a speech read on behalf of the bloc by Hamzeh Mansour, the IAF also agreed with the minister that there was a deficiency in legislation gov-

PLO accord this week mediators

that Mr. Rabin as myself do

understand in depth that a

divided leadership may be a

catastrophe for peace and for the country," Mr. Peres said oo Israel Radio.

Asked whether an imple-

mentation agreement could be

signed at the upcoming meet-

ing, Mr. Peres said: "I doubt it

because we still bave a lot of

work to do. Even after you

agree on the principles. There

is debate over formulating

In Cairo, PLO negotiator

Nabil Shaath said that Israel

was deliberately dragging its feet over talks about self-rule

in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israelis to come to negotiate in

Cairo this week but the Israelis

did not respond, he told repor-

ters after a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr

"Israel is saying it will take

three or four weeks (to reach

(Continued on page 5)

The PLO bad wanted the

erning the entry of food and medicine into the market and that exorbitant profits were being made on drugs.

After adding to the list of cases in which Dr. Malhas said unfit shipments of milk, meat, cheese, wheat were allowed into the market, the IAF demanded answers to a set of questions in light of which it said the House will be able to define its position on the gov-

The LAF wanted to know whether the government had responded to any reform programmes Dr. Malhas might have presented to the government before he made his press statements, whether people in the Ministry of Health resisted his attempts for reform and whether be could substantiate charges that employees in charge of the drug cootrol department had interests that could conflict with their work.

The IAF also raised questions on a number of issues that would show the extent to wbich measures taken to guarantee the safety of medicines are sufficient and if unfit medicines were responsible for the death of some people at various hospitals in the King-

Before urging the House to withhold confidence from the government if it does not resign, the IAF demanded to know why the government re-sponded with "negativity

(Continued on page 5) .

SANAA (R) - Yemen's feud-

ing political parties were meet-

ing Saturday in a new effort to

iron out differences that bave

delayed ratification of a peace

An all-party committee,

which reached agreement last

month on political, economie,

military and administrative re-

forms, was meeting in the

capital Sanaa, said the commit-

tee's spokesman Abmad Jaber

The northern-based General

Peoples Congress (GPC) of

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

bad said on Thursday that a

scheduled signing ceremony in

Jordan next week was delayed

because of new conditions set

by its southern rival, the Ye-

Political sources said the

YSP, led by estranged Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh,

wanted gurantees ensuring the

(Continued on page 5)

men Socialist Party (YSP).

accord to end their dispute.

Yemeni

meet

# Israeli soldiers kill two Palestinians amid chaos

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinians in the occupied territories on Saturday, one of them an 11-year-old boy returning from school, Palesti-

CARNAGE: Wounded and dead are unloaded

from United Nations armoured personnel car-

riers at a U.N. hospital in Sarajevo after a

nian and Israeli sources said. Soldiers shot dead the youngster,. Ayman Al Souri, in front of a United Nations relief office in the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza, Palestinian witnesses and U.N. workers said,

The witnesses said the boy was coming bome from school and was shot in the chest from a distance of 120 metres, still carrying his schoolbag. There had been no clash in the area, the witnesses said.

Troops tried to take the boy's body from relatives, who evaded the soldiers by running with it through the twisting alleys of the refugee camp, the porters said.

Hundreds of people attended the boy's funeral in the camp, chanting slogans against the peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In the West Bank village of Balaa, soldiers killed Khiri Abdul Jaber Yousef Abdullah, 30. described by villagers as "mentally deranged." army spokeswoman said the incident bappened during a

search for wanted activists. "Abdullah tried to escape from an army roadblock while the village was under curfew," sbe said. "The soldiers called on him to stop and when he didn't respond they shot at him. He was badly wounded and died of his wounds."

The spokeswoman said Mr. Abdullah was not among those wanted by the army.

The latest bloodshed came on the second day of a threeday strike called in Gaza after soldiers on Thursday killed an activist in the Fatch Hawks, a group affiliated to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. A supporter of the Hamas

movement was killed in Gaza on Friday when trying to settle a quarrel between armed militants and a family in Rafah refugee camp, Palestinian sources said.

Also Saturday, Ayman Zaqout died of wounds be sustained during the shootout with undercover troops Thurscamp, Arab reporters said. Mr. Zaqout belonged to the Fateh Hawks.

Serbian mortar shell fell on a crowded market-

place on Sunday (see page 8). Late reports said

nearly 70 people were killed and 200 injured

The leader of a Hawks breakaway faction in Rafah, Salim Muwafi, was killed in Thursday's shootout.

The stone-throwing clash in Jabaliya erupted as a protest over Mr. Muwafi's killing. Saturday deaths brought to

1,208 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli troops or civilians since the December 1987 start of the uprising against occupation. Among those killed were 243 children age 16 or younger, according to the Israeli buman rights group Betselem.

Meanwhile, there were growing signs of chaos and infighting as Gaza awaited the outcome of the Israel-PLO negotiations on implementing

In Rafah, a bystander was killed by Friday evening during clashes between a Fatch official and members of a clan demanding payment for a machine gun. Arab reporters

(Continued on page 5)

## Cabinet passes new rules on food, medicine

AMMAN (Petra) - The Council of Ministers Saturday approved four new sets of reg-ulations on food safety, drug testing, private hospitals and reorganisation of the Health Ministry's internal administra-

According to a Cabinet statement issued following a regular session, the food safety regulations will be in implementation of the 1971 public bealth law, which has provisions for testing foodstuffs.

The regulations call for testing foodstuffs, determining their fitness for human consumption and setting conditions for their preservation.

The statement said the regulations on testing drugs stipulate that the Health Ministry's drug control laboratory will conduct tests on samples of drugs manufactured in Jordan or abroad. No medicine will be allowed to be marketed in Jordan unless they clear the laboratory tests.

The ministry did not charge any fees on such tests so far but fees will be collected from now

The regulations on private hospitals, the statement said, call for fees for licensing new bospitals.

The foorth set of regulations authorises the minister to appoint two assistants to the directors general of bealth departments and bospital directors on his own discreoon.

Aqaba gets lab

The Aqaba Department of Health bas opened a laboraimported to Jordan via the port of Agaba. The department's director, Abdul Rahman Al Shuweikini, said the labortory, which has started operating, was supplied with advanced laboratory equipment and qualified personnel.

## Sudan reportedly starts offensive against rebels

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The Sudanese government has launched a huge ground and air offensive against southern rebels, sending 100,000 re-fugees fleeing for their lives, aid workers and diplomats said on Saturday.

Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and government troops were locked in bitter fighting across the south. Relief organisations, trying to feed some two million hungry people. were having to curtail aid deliveries. the sources said.

Government artillery pounded rebel positions around the Kit River area. south of Juba, on Friday, aid workers said.

Rebel sources said that unidentified attackers, allegedly renegade SPLA fighters who had joined the government side, were at the same time attacking south of Kit.

clearly trying to make a push for the SPLA-held town of Nimule on the frontier with Uganda in an effort to cut the rebels' main military and food supply line. Some 100,000 southerners

Khartoum's forces were

displaced by the decade-long war in this area, known as the "Triple A" because of the camps of Ame, Aswa and Atepi, have panicked and were fleeing towards Uganda. aid workers said.

Government warplanes joined the offensive drawing strong condemnation from Washington. The death toll from the

bombings of displaced people's camps Friday around Maridi and Arapi, was still unknown. said David Shinn, the State Department's East Africa

"The United States government deplores the recent air attacks by the Sudanese government on civilian populations," the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) said in a joint statement released here.

"These unconscionable assaults demonstrate a total disregard for the lives of innocent people residing in these areas and undermine ongoing humanitarian relief efforts. Mr. Shinn told a news conference in Nairobi where he was attending a conference on aid to Somalia this week.

The government has denied the offensive and blamed unrest in the south, also hit by a severe drought, on rival rebel But foreign relief workers

said more than 20,000 government troops had advanced south by train and barge in the past month and had fought major battles with SPLA rebels led by John Garang. Mr. Shinn said Washington

supported peace efforts by a regional group led by President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenva which have so far come to nothing. The air attacks came two

days after another displaced people's camp at Ame, near the Ugandan border, was attacked by scores of heavily armed militiamen believed to have been supported by the government, Mr. Shinn said. United Nations officials said

Saturday that relief workers would be evacuated from Maridi and Mundri within 48

The government cancelled permission for telief agencies to fly emergency supplies into Mundri on Wednesday.

## **Aziz meets Ekeus** amid unclear signs

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareg Aziz met here Saturday with Rolf Ekeus, bead of the U.N. Special Commission to disarm Iraq (UNSCOM), Iraqi sources said.

Mr. Ekeus, who arrived Wednesday in Baghdad was following up on talks with officials on the setting up of a long-term monitoring mechanism of Iraq's weapons prog-

Prior to his meeting with Mr. Aziz, Mr. Ekeus told journalists the discussions had been 'serious, professional and business-like.' Asked whether he was still

hopeful on their outcome, he replied: "Yes, I bave not changed my position." Since his arrival, Mr. Ekeus

has beld talks with Foreign Minister Mobammad Saeed Al Sahhaf and General Amer Rashid, head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation.

Prodded further on whether he had any problems with the Iraqis, he said: "We are continuing our talks."
U.N. sources in Baghdad

said Mr. Ekeus was to hold a

final round of meetings with Iraqi officials Saturday night. The government newspaper. Ai Jumhouriya, in a front-page. open letter, urged Mr. Ekeus' to belp ease the suffering of

Iraqi people caused by U.N.

"You will not starve if you raise your voice and say 'enough is enough' and the U.N. should immediately issue a resolution to lift the sancnons," it said.

A newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday blasted the envoy for what it said were his contradictory remarks.

"He, the accursed, is unsatisfied in Manama and optimistie in Baghdad," the newspaper Babel said.

The sanctions imposed by the United Nations over Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait will not be lifted until the Security Council is satisfied that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction are destroyed and its arms industry is under international surveillance.

Mr. Ekeus is trying to organise the mechanics of longterm monitoring.

Dr. Midal Mamadi F.A. 1.C. American Board of Internal Medicine American Board of Cardiology Former cardiologist at Texas Heart Institute in Houston

Announces the opening of his cardiology clinic in Amman

5th Circle, near Arab Centre for Heart and Surgery Phone 862202

#### Khartoum tense after at least 13 killed in mosque attack said 19 people were killed. advocates strict adherence to KHARTOUM (Agencies) —

Police barricaded main roads and Nile bridges in this anxious capital Saturday in a search for gunmen who killed 13 worshippers as they left a mosque.

Authorities said an unspecified number of aliens were among the five machinegunners, who earlier killed two policemen to steal their weapons. An arrested foreigners' nationality was not given.

As police on top alert continued a search for the gunmen and set up roadblocks, the daily Al Engaz Al Watani reported that ranking security sources "have not discarded the link between the assailants

and foreign quarters." According to the government, a total 13 people were killed and an unknown number wounded when the gunmen raked the mosque in the Al Thawra district with automatic weapons fire after Friday

prayers. But Al Engaz Al Watani Another paper, the Al Sudan Al Hadeith daily, put the death toll at 13.

According to press reports, two of the assailants had attacked a police station near the mosque, killing two policemen and seizing sub-machine guns before joining three others at the mosque where they opened fire "indiscrimi-

A police officer was quoted as saying the five assailants had managed to escape to Khartoum in two pick-up trucks, driving across the Nile Bridge linking the two cities. One was

later arrested. The gunmen included foreigners, according to an Interior Ministry statement quoted by the Sudanese news agency SUNA, though it gave no de-

The motive for the attack was not immediately clear. The Ai Thawra Mosque is operated by members of the Ansar Al Sunna sect, which

the teachings of the Prophet Mobammad and rigorous religious instruction. The sect's leader, Sheikh

Abu Zayed Hamza, normally leads prayers but was not present on Friday. The sect for more than a

year has taken positions hostile to the Sudanese government, triggering a crackdown on its activities by authorities. In Cairo Sudanese opposi-

tion sources attributed Friday's attack to "government agents" determined to intimidate the population and avert public demonstrations. They said such agents were

likely to have come from mili-

tiamen close to the National

Islamic Front. Ansar Al Sunna beiiefs correspond with those of the Wahabi sect of Saudi Arabia. The Saudis support the movement while remaining seriously at odds with Khartoum for its

(Continued on page 5)

## U.N. downgrades Somalia mission

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) - The Security Council Friday reduced its peacekeeping mission in Somalia, whittling down the number of troops as well as their mandate for action.

In a resolution, adopted unanimously, the council trimed the troops to a maximum of 22,000 while ahandoning any attempt 10 forcibly disarm Somali factions responsible for hampering the distribution of famine relief supplies.

The U.N. operation had over 30,000 soldiers at its peak but Secretary-General Boutness Ghali sees no more than 16.000 soldiers available in the future. Currently there are about 25.700 troops, many of whom will leave gradually.

The resolution on the troubled operation followed a decision by the United States to withdraw its troops by March

With the Americans leaving.. several western nations with sophisticated equipment will also pull out. Pakistan and India lead the new troops contingents with about 5.tk% sol-.diers each.

But Pakistan's Deputy Ambassador Sher Afghan Khan warned the council of the precariousness of the new mission, saying mainutrition levels were on the rise in some area. banditry remained endemic and some factions were rearming and weapons were being stockpiled.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, noting that the council hoped the operation could be completed by March 1995, said that Somalis must bear the responsibility for national reconciliation and reconstruction themselves.

"Let me stress that the patience of the international community is not an exhaustible resource." she said, adding that Somalis needed to "rigorously and genuinely pursue all opportunities to resolve their differences.

Britain's Ambassador David Hannay said it was "fashionable" to regard Somalia as a defeat for the United Nations. But he said compared to where Somalia was a year ago with thousands dying of hunger and clan warfare raging, the task "is to seek to consolidate the achievements.

The scaling back of U.N. goals stems from prolonged debate last year on the U.N. mission after 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were killed in a

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A Kuwaiti

appeals court is scheduled to

review the case and verdict

handed down to a former

security officer who was

found guilty of multiple mur-

der of a Lebanese father and

son but cleared of charges of

raping a woman member of

. The Feb. 20 review of the

case offers Naimat Farhat,

35, a final chance to press her

case that a former official of

the Kuwaiti intelligence

apparatus came to the Farhat

residence on March 2, 1991,

raped her after tying up her

father Ismail Farhat and

brother Osama Al Farhat and

then killed the two men and

Ms. Farhat, who survived

the attack and now lives with

her brother Naim in Califor-

shot her in the head.

the family.

June clash with militia forces loyal to factional leader Mohammad Farah Aideed. Eighteen U.S. troops were killed in October in another clash with General Aideed's troops.

After the October firefight. President Bill Clinton announced he would pull out the U.S. contingent by March 31. Italy. Germany. Turkey and Norway will also have withdrawn their troops by then. Troops from France. Belgium and Sweden left in December.

The new resolution calls for encouraging "cooperative" efforts of the warring factions to disarm, whereas when the U.N. mission began in 1993 the United Nations had set mandatory disarmament as a main

The text says the U.N. force will now concentrate on protecting ports, airports and other infrastructure to guarantee deliveries of food and other relief goods.

It says priority in reconstruc-tion efforts will be given to areas where security is being reestablished and local authorities are cooperative. In other words, the U.N. will no longer hunt Gen. Aideed, for whom an arrest warrant had been issued for the killing of the Pakistani troops.

The council also called on Somalia's factions to work towards reconciliation.

It said the U.N. mission should be completed by March

#### 'U.N. not equipped'

The outgoing U.N. special representative in Somalia said Friday the United Nations lacks the political will and the skilled manpower to handle

complex peacekeeping.
"I realised after I gut here what I was facing." Jonathoo Howe, the retired U.S. admiral who took over the Somalia U.N. mission last May, said in an interview in Mogadishu.

"The challenge and the resources I had to do it with. just, well, there was no match-

Mr. Howe said the United Nations lacks a cadre of skilled managers to handle the political. economic. logistical, judicial and other issues that arise in typical peacekeeping mis-

sions. He also indirectly criticised the United States and other nations for cutting and running when things got tough.

ma, has enlisted the help of

various American as well as

international human rights

organisations for her quest

for justice, which she says she

did not receive when the

assailant was cleared of the

The court, in its ruling in

mid-December, found that

Jaber Al Omairi was guilty of

multiple murder but cleared

him of charges of raping the

The court, in its ruling in

mid-December, found that

Mr. Omairi had carried out

the killing "because he be-

lieved that (the Farhats) were

during their Angust 1990-

February 1991 occupation of

the emirate. The court sent-

enced him to life in prison

and also ordered that some

\$17,000 be paid to Naimat

The court ruling said there

collaborating with the Iraqis'

rape charge.



CASABLANCA MOSQUE: Moroccans walks on the esplanade of a new mosque built in Casablanca. The mosque opened its door on Friday, one week before the beginning of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. The new mosque is one of the biggest Arab World cost more than \$500 million (AFP photo)

## Gunmen kill witness in Sedki bomb trial

CAIRO (Agencies) - Unidentified gunmen Friday night killed a witness who was to testify in the trial of extremists for attempting to assassinate Egypt's prime minister, police said. Three bystanders were slain in the attack.

The slain witness was Saved Ahmad Yehia, an automobile dealer who identified one of the suspects in the November car bombing aimed at Prime Minister Atef Sedki. Mr. Yehia's picture appeared in newspapers when he was given a reward of 40,000 Egyptian

pounds (\$11,940). The assailants opened fire with submachine guns in the automobile showroom owned by Mr. Yehia in Qalubia. 25 kilometres north of Cairo. according to police officials who spoke on condition of

Mr. Yehia, a customer and a guard and employee at the car showroom were killed. A policeman who happened to be present was wounded, the officials said. His condition was not immediately known.

The radical movement Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack on Dr. Sedki last Nov. 25. It is one of the militant groups seeking to overthrow Egypt's secular government and install strict Islamic rule.

Mr. Yehia identified Sayed Salah Suleiman as the man who bought a vehicle from him

were contradictions and in-

consistencies in the testimony

of Ms. Farhat, who travelled

to Kuwait in August to

appear in court. She positive-

ly identified Mr. Omairi as

her rapist and the killer of her

The judgment also said

that the only evidence to

support Ms. Farhat's charges

of rape was her own testi-

mony. The woman, who was

left to bleed to death after

being shot in the head, was

rescued by neighbours who

took her to hospital in an

unconscious state and did not

undergo a medical test for

there could have been others

involved in the attack, but

said charges were filed only

against Mr. Omairi. It did not

elaborate or explain why the

const itself did not order that

others be charged in the case.

The court conceded that

father and brother.

Kuwaiti appeals court to review Farhat case

that was used in the Sedki car bombing. Mr. Suleiman is one of nine men seized and being tried for the attempted assassination. Six other are on trial in

absentia. Dr. Scdki escaped injury in the bombing as his car passed an elementary school, but a schoolgirl was killed and 11 people were wounded.

The Jihad claim said the bombing was intended as proof that militants opposed to the government still were free to act despite police statements that the group had been wiped uut hy the arrest of almost 1.000 Jihad supporters.

Jihad was blamed for the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat. At the time, the government also claimed to have destroyed the group, but it has resurfaced in the current uprising against the govern-

Radicals intensified their campaign to turn Egypt into an Islamic state in early 1992. Since then nearly 300 people have heen killed, including police, radicals, mioority Coptic Christians and three foreign

Unlike the larger group Gamaa Al Islamiyah, which has mostly attacked the security forces. Jihad has concentrated on trying to kill promin-

The Farhat family, which

lived in Kuwait for more than

30 years, has denied the "col-

laboration" charges and say

that its members actually

helped the Kuwaiti resistance

during the Iraqi occupation.

attack on the family was ordered by unidentified

senior Kuwaiti officials as

part of a rampage of

vengeance following the li-

beration of Kuwait from Iraqi

occupation and that Mr.

Omairi's trial served the pur-

pose of shielding the others.

that the Kuwaiti state pay all

costs incurred for the trear-

ment as well as life-time

maintenance for Ms. Farhat,

who was crippled in the

attack and for the remains of

her father and brother to

allowed to be reburied in

EMERGENCIES

Lebanon.

The family is demanding

The Farhats say that the

## Murders terrify city in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR (R) — A spate of murders has sown fear in the mostly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, southeast Turkey, where gunmen shot dead two civilians on Friday.

Officials said pairs of unidentified assailants killed shopkeeper Omer Gunes and coffee-house owner Faik Bara in separate attacks. They gave no motive for the murders.

Local journalists linked them to a factional feud within Hizbollah, a secret Islamic group said to have ties with

Kurdish nationalists have in the past accused Hizbollah of working with the security forces to assassinate prominent Kurds or supporters of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK),

The government denies the death squad charges, blaming PKK-Hizbollah rivalry for many of the hundreds of mystery murders perpetrated in the region over the past three

In January there were 34 street killings in Diyarbakir. the biggest city in the southeast, where over 10,600 people bave died since the PKK began its fight for a Kurdish state in

"People are getting killed here and we don't know who is. doing it," said Sabri Gonuna-Divarbakir branch of the opposition Motherland Party, "I leave home in the morn-

ing and don't know if I'll get back in the evening," he said, sipping tea in a dingy, smokefilled office with a dozen gloomy party workers. Violence or the threat of it

has cast a pall over political activity in the city ahead of local elections due on March

There is a bustling sense of purpose at the offices of the Muslim fundamentalist Welfare Party, which is preaching Islamic brotherhood as the solution to Turkey's Kurdish problem. Elsewhere, armed police

guard the deserted offices of the ruling coalition government partners, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party and the Social Democrat Populist Party. The Kurdish-based Demo-

cracy Party (DEP) has abandoned its main office for temporary seventh-floor premises in a block occupied by doctors and dentists.

The state tries to treat us as if we were an illegal organisation," said a local DEP official, Feridun Celik, adding that

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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# many people in the party had been detained or arrested.

DEP has been a main target of the mystery killers, losing more than 50 of its officials. including a member of parliament, Mehmet Sincar, shot dead in the city of Batman last

According to the Turkish Human Rights Foundation. based in Ankara, 269 people were murdered in the southeast in the first nine months of last year, compared to 362 in the whole of 1992.

They were among more than 4,100 soldiers, civilians and guerrillas killed in the east and southeast last year.

The death toll has not slack-

Not including the street killings in Diyarbakir, officials say 273 people died in the region in January, including 189 rebels, 35 civilians, 30 members of the security forces and 19 village guards paid by the state to fight

Mr. Celik said that despite the "war atmosphere" in the region, DEP was still planning to fight the elections. "We may boycott them if there are too many killings," he said. The PKK, which has not

declared its policy towards the sense of menace in Diyarbakir in October by banning journalists and Turkish newspapers. Newspapers can only be

bought from police stations because of the PKK threat. All oewspaper offices have closed, except those of the pro-PKK Istanbul-based Ozgur Gundem

The entire staff of 13 at the local Ozgur Gundem office are in detention, but a few journalists from other parts of Turkey are manning the office, guarded by a bullet-proof steel

An Iranian villager wounded in a Turkish air raid aimed at rebel Kurdish camps in Iraq has died of his injuries, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Saturday.

IRNA said the death brought to 10 the number of Iranians killed in the Jan. 28 air strike on a camp on the Iraq-Iran border which Turkey said was used by PKK rebels.

Turkey said on Thursday the air raid killed Iranians by mistake and expressed "deep sorrow" at the incident.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Israel chooses new head of women's corps

TEL AVIV (AP) - Israel's military on Friday chose a new commander for its women's corps. a post that often draws in from women's groups who see it as a symbol of the limited opportunity for women in the highest ranks of the armed forces. Colonel Yisraela Oron, 42, will be promoted to the rank of brigadier general and will officially take charge of the army's female soldiers in the next few months, an army statement said. Col. Oron was drafted into the army in 10% and served in various positions in the women's corps, including commander of the main basic training base for women. She replacing Brig. Gen. Yehudit Ben-Natan who told the Associated Press she intended to retire when her term was up. since "I have nowhere else to go." Gen. Ben-Natan's request for a transfer to the army's general staff was reponedly rejected. Women, drafted at 18 for two years of service, are barred from doing combat duty which prevents them learn rising to high-level positions that require battle experience There have been frequent complaints that women are assigned menial tasks like making coffee and are subject to harasmen by male superior officers. The women's corps, which accounts for nearly half of the 176.000 standing military, is known by its Hebrew acronym. CHEN, which is also Hebrew for "beauty"

## Angola expels 4 Israelis for running militia

TEL AVIV (AP) - Angola expelled 20 foreigners, including four Israelis. in December for running a private army and for smuggling diamonds to finance a rebel movement, Israel Radio reported Friday. One of the Israelis headed a licensed security firm, but was expelled when the Angolan Interior Ministry discovered he was carrying out operations reserved for the security forces, the radio quoted unidentified ministry officials as saying. The other foreigners, including South Africans, Portuguese, and nationals of various Arab states. were all employees of the security firm. The radio did not name any of the foreigners. The firm was authorised to hande only personal security services, the radio said, but had purchased 5tkl assault rifles and submachineguns. In addition the Israeli who headed the firm smuggled diamonds out of Angola and laundered the proceeds through a Brussels bank to finance the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), UNITA, once a guerrilla movement confined to Angola's bush, has occupied more than half the Southern African nation since accusing the government of rigging multi-party elections in Sept. 1992. The rebels have seized almost complete control of Angola's diamond fields potentially the world's second-most productive with an estimated yield of \$2tx) million per year. The radiu noted that the Angolan government received "limited security assistance" from Israel as part of a deal to renew ties with the Jewish state last year. The revelation came a day after the news that enemies of the regime in Congo are offering Israeli mercenaries \$15 million to help them overthruw the government, which is to be aided by Israeli military advisers.

#### Denmark to pull diplomats out of Algeria

COPENHAGEN (AP) - Denmark is pulling its ambassador and three other diplomats out of Algeria next week, because uf recent killings of foreigners by militants, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. The embassy in Algiers will remain open. with Algerian staff and one Danish office clerk without diplomatic status, a senior Foreign Ministry official said. "The reason for this is the insecure situation which Western people face in Algeria." he said, refusing to be identified in line with civil service practice. At least 27 foreigners have been killed since late September as the militaots target those whose sake and investment are important tu the economy. The Danish diplomats will temporarily move to Tunis. FLS Industries. Danish group building a concrete plant in eastern Algeria, has 20 employees in the country, but there was oo announcement that they would leave.

## 4 killed in building collapse

KHARTOUM (AP) - Four people were killed and seven injured when a building collapsed during construction in downtown Khartoum. a government newspaper said. The victims were construction workers, said the daily Al Sudan Al Hadith. It said 14 other workers were missing after the collapse of the two-storey structure Thursday. It was unclear if some of those were later rescued. The cause of the collapse was under investigation. hut one report said it resulted from too much sand being mixed in the cement.

## Greece asks Iran to exert influence on Bosnia

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ATHENS (AP) - Greece's foreign minister, Carolos Papoulias. Friday asked Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akhar Velayati to exert his influence on the Bosnian government for it to accept a European Union (EU) peace plan dividing its war-torn country. Mr. Velayati said that he would brief Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, but did not specify whether his country was happy with the EU plan. Iran has been a major supporter of the mainly-Muslim Bosnian government in its war against rebel Serbs and Croats. Greece currently holds the EU's six-month rotating presidency and has been trying to garner support for the stalled peace talks in Geneva. "I asked the minister to unite his efforts with those of the European Union to find a solution. And he promised this to me. I am referring to the good relations between Tehran and Mr. Izethegovic. Mr. Papoulias said after a two-hourmeeting with Mr. Velayati.

## Rabin to visit Portugal on Feb. 23

LISBON (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will visit. Portugal on Feb. 23 to discuss the Middle East peace process: and bilateral issues, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Mr. Rabin, who will be visiting Portugal for the first time as Israeli pomeminister, will meet President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, the spokesman added.

## JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

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Electric Power 636381

HOSPITALS
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Princess Basma Hospital (09)986732. Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99090 IRBED: Princess Basma Hospital (UZ)275555

Ibu Al Nafees Hospital ...... tu2)24/100 Princess Haya Hospital ...... (03)314111 **POR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA** 

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-ment at the Oucen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. APPIVALS

**INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** 

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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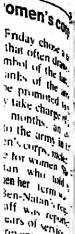
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Riyadh (R) New Delhi (R. Pepper (hot) ... Pepper (sweet) ... Agaba (R) 250/ 200 120/ 50 160/ 90 120 / 60 640/ 500 . Abu Dhali, Duba (RJ) Bongkok (RJ)



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ter the news ? it of Algeri education at colleges and uniing its imbase

versities.

by providing training to the

needy, QAF hopes to gradual-

ly transform the concept of

Jordaoian Businessmen's

Association (JBA) Saturday

said it plans to urge the coo-

cerned Australian authorities

to arrange for more Jorda-

nian imports, especially phos-

phate and potash, in an effort

to adjust the balance of trade

which is currently in favour of

The JBA is arranging a

general meeting Sunday evening between JBA mem-

bers and an Australian delegation.

due to arrive in Amman

Sunday, to discuss prospects

of increased trade and econo-

mic cooperation, said a JBA

Jordanian business persons

will urge the delegation, led

by Henry Cowan, deputy

prime minister and minister

of commerce and trade ex-

Australia.

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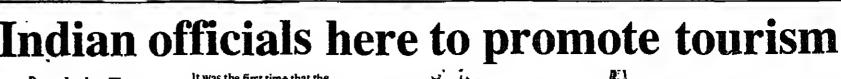
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ome News



By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Glimpses from the "land of all seasons," as the Indians call their country. were presented to a gathering of Jordanian officials and travel agents Saturday by Indian officials trying to promote tourism to the sub-

Attended by visiting Indian Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Gulam Nabi Azad and his Jordanian counterpart Mohammad Adwan, the presentation centred around an audio-visual show of what India holds in store for the potential tourist.

Ranging from the backwaters of southern India to the landmarks of India to the north, the varying cultures and languages of the country nf nearly 900 million people and the centuries-old monuments were presented to the accompaniment of Indian music at the nearly one-hour

AMMAN (J.T.) - Five members

of the Lower House of Parliament

Saturday sent a memn to the Am-

man prosecutor general officially

requesting him to investigate state-

ments by Minister of Health Abdul

Rahim Malhas alleging that there were violations of the laws by some

The deputies — Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, Toujan Faisal, Bassam

Haddadin, Khaliki Haddadin and

Mustafa Shneikat — said Dr. Malhas had told the Shihan Arab

weekly that merchants were selling

food unfit for human consumption.

They said that these and other

charges made in the interview "are

violations of the Penal Code, the

Public Health Law and other laws,

and should prompt the concerned

authorities to conduct the neces-

food merchants.

5 deputies launch move

for criminal inquiry into

It was the first time that the Indian Tourism Development Corporation, a stateowned agency, came to Jordan with an emphasis on developing Jordanian tourism to India and adding a new "land of all reasons" dimension to the catchy description

that it gives to the country. Indian travel agents in the delegation accompanying Mr. Azad also spoke of possibilities of tourism packages for Indians interested in visiting Jordan.

Also mentioned were the possibilities of developing joint tourism packages which offer both countries to visitors from Europe. During a short exchange of

views after the presentation, both sides agreed to study possibilities further and exchange visits. The holy land is a regular

destination of the large Christian population of India while Muslims use Royal Jordanian to fly through Amman to Jeddah en route to

Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan Saturday discusses hilateral tourism rela-

> Jordanian-Indian relations. Mr. Azad was the "minister in waiting" for Their Majesties King Hussein and

Queen Noor during their visit

to India in 1988. His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Senior officials of Royal Jordanian [RJ), the national Salam Majali are expected to carrier, are also scheduled to meet with Mr. Azad Sunday hold talks with Mr. Azad on

civil aviation links between India and Jordan.

tions with his Indian counterpart Gulam

Nahi Azad (in light suit) (Petra photo)

RJ operates regular flights to Delhi and Calcutta. Air India, the Indian flag carrier, does not fly to Amman, and officials say that the airline's priorities were in Europe and North America as well as the Gulf states.

# QAF plans 4th charity drive

The role of fourth consecutive year, the AMMAN (Petra) - For the uihuriveilinhe. Queen Ana ruite in the line of the desired in the the said, but launch a charity campaign inincome for themselves. volving volunteers and scouts diaminds of during the month of Ramadan, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma announced Saturday.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday

holds a press briefing to announce the fourth

charity campaign planned by the Queen Alia

Addressing a press briefing, the princess, who is also QAF families, said Princess Basma. honourary chairperson, said The rebeh that this year the funds raised will target three major areas of need: Rehabilitation and vocaadministration in the state of needy families; direct th the leach in-kind assistance to needy families suffering from malg Israeli meter. mutrition and poor health; and financial aid to excelling enderprivileged students so that they may continue their

campaign in the past three years, she said, has encouraged QAF to continue its fundraising efforts and in-kind con-Noting that QAF gives priority to rehabilitation progtributions to the needy. Last year's campaign, said rammes, the Princess said that Princess Basma, resulted in

direct aid into actual developmeot which would enable such families to ensure a steady

With 45 centres around the country dedicated to helping the needy QAF realises the extent of poverty resulting from unemployment and other causes, as well as the social and economic conditions of needy

"We do not claim that through the charity campaigns will find a solution to poverty in Jordan, but we feel we are committed by our faith to ensure solidarity among the people in the coming holy month, stressed the Princess.

The success of the charity

JD 40,000 collected and distri-

buted to beneficiaries by QAF

change of Western Australia.

to import Jordanian indust-

rial products, said the state-

held at the Amman Phi-

ladelphia Hotel, is part of

JBA programme aimed at.

stimulating economic and

trade links with other coun-

Similar meetings have been

organised by the JBA with

visitors and government offi-cials from Canada, the Un-

ited States as well as Austra-

According to the JBA

statement Jordan's imports

from Australia rose from JD

1.8 million in 1989 to JD 25.4

million in 1991, but dropped

to JD 15.3 million in 1992.

Such imports included live

lia, said the statement.

The meeting which will be

(Petra photo)

The contributions consisted of in-kind assistance to 8.260 families, medical care and drugs for 958 families, and surgical operations and the purchase of medical equipment, the Princess said.

Fund for Social Development during Ramadan

She added that some aid went to handicapped children and part of the donations were used to purchase sheep for families in rural regions, as well as to finance sewing and knitting training courses and small stores for heads of fami-

QAF this year also plans to grant loans to help families start their own incomegenerating projects, and farming equipment will be offered to farmers, said Princess Bas-

Through this campaign, added the princess. QAF hopes to foster the concept of social solidarity during Ramadan when people are expected to give alms to the poor.

sneep, trozen meat, cheese

and honey as well as cereals,

lubricating oil, raw alumi-nium and medical equip-

The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, Saturday said that Mr.

Cowan will spend several

days in the Kingdom and

meet with officials from the

public and private sectors to

discuss economic and trade

sidered a follow-up to a ses-

sion he held in Jordan during

a visit last year, Petra said.

Jordanian-Australian com-

mittee has been working to

increase trade exchanges be-

tween the two countires and

concentrating on launching

joint ventures in the King-

Mr. Cowan's talks are con-

The agency said that a joint

ment.

relations.

sary investigations and refer (suspects) to the proper courts." The minister, they said, is a civil **Business group to urge Australians** servant whose duty includes implementing the Penal Code. There-fore; he should inform the prosecutor general's office of any crime to import more from Jordan that he knows of, they said.

The five deputies also demanded that the prosecutor general summon the two reporters who con-Khaled Al Shboul and Ruba Karasneh — as well as the minister

Dr. Malhas said in the interview with Shihan that there was a deficiency in laws governing the sales of food and drugs and charged that some drug and food importers were resisting regulations that the Ministry of Health had introduced. In another development, Depu-

ty Dughmi sent another memn to the prosecutor general Officially requesting him to investigate a statement sent to the Lower House by the president of the Jordan Dentists Association, Mohammad

Obeidat on Jan. 29. Mr. Dughmi said some medicine and materials used by dentists were brought into the Kingdom without any kind of control, in a manner

violating Jurdanian law. He said, quoting Dr. Obeidat's statement that some materials that cause cancer were still used by dentists in Jordan

According to Dr. Obeidat's' statement, materials used by dentists to fill cavities do not undergo any kind of laboratory tests to check whether they are harmless or

"These materials are much more dangerous than medicine because they stay in the mouth for a period of more than 20 years, while a pill would be discharged from the human body after a period of rime,"
Dr. Obeidat said in his statement, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times.

Dr. Obeldat also said that a teacher at the University of Jor-dan's Faculty of Dennistry was treating patients at the faculty's clinic although he is not registered at the association.

The teacher, Maher Mohammad Jarbawi, had earlier taken the examination conducted by the Ministry of Health for beginning doc-tors, but failed after the association sent a complaint about him to the Ministry of Health and the presi-dent of the University of Jordan in April 1993, Dr. Obeidat said. Mr. Dughmi attached Dr.

Obeidat's statement which was sent to the Lower House of Parliament to his memo and called on the prosecutor general to use Dr. Obediat's testimony in the inves-

## Iran to cut embassy staff to 9

AMMAN (Agencies) — Iran, responding to Jordanian defood, medicine allegations mands, has agreed to cut the number of its embassy staff in the Kingdom from 40 to nine. officials said Saturday.

Mecca and Medina to per-

Mr. Azad arrived Friday

on an official visit. He held

formal talks with Dr. Adwan

for a general review of

form Hai.

Saturday

Under an accord reached after months of negotiation. Iran would only keep five of its 20 diplomats, including Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian, and four of its 20 Iranian administrative staffers in Amman, they said.

Jordan, which restored ties with Iran in 1991 after an II-year break, has an ambassador, another diplomat and three locally-hired administrators in its embassy in Tehran. Both countries have insisted the staff reduction should not affect growing political, economic and trade ties.

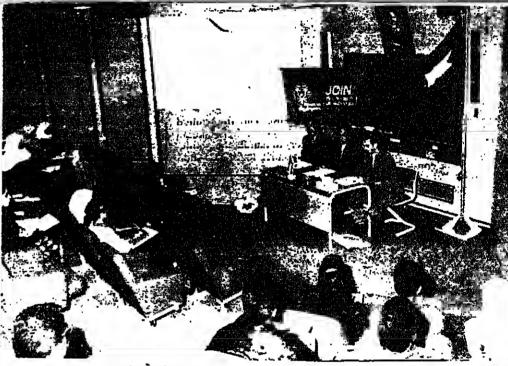
On the contrary, this would help develop Jordanian-Iranian relations in a quiet and gradual manner that takes into consideration the interests of both countries," a top Jordanian government official, who asked for anonymity, told Reu-

The Iranian embassy, which reopened in Amman in 1992,

announced in a statement on Friday that it was cutting its staff as a purely organisational

The statement was prompted by a newspaper article that suggested Iran might be behind the killing of a Jordanian diplomat in Beirut last week.

"We want to affirm that close relations between the two brotherly countries in which the spirit of brotherliness and affection are proceeding ahead," said the embassy statement.



REHABILITATION THROUGH SPORTS: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid Saturday opens a sports seminar held at Nazek Al Hariri Special Education Centre for social workers dealing with the mentally handicapped. Prince Ra'd called on the social workers to continue work towards physically and psychologically rehabilitating the mentally handicapped so that they may contribute in productive

roles in society. Centre Director Yasser Salem said the seminar includes lectures and practical training and demonstrations at the University of Jordan and the Orthodox Club sports courts. He said 37 social workers representing 24 special education centres in Amman, Zarqa, Salt, Madaba, Baqaa and Jerash are participating in the five-day seminar (Petra photo)

## **HOME NEWS IN BRIEF**

### King congratulates New Zealand AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to New Zealand Governor General Dame Catherine Tizard congratulating er in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian

people and government on New Zealand's national day. King Hussein wished the governor general good health and bappiness and the people of New Zealand further progress and Ramadan working hours set

AMMAN (Petra) - Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Saturday issued a communique setting working hours for government depart-

ment employees during the fasting month of Ramadan, due to start next week. The communique stipulates that work at ministries and government departments during Ramadan will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. The prime minister urged all civil servants to respect the sanctity of the holy month and to be considerate of the feelings of their colleagues, who will be fasting. Meanwhile, Chief Islamic Justice Izzed-din Al Khatib Al Tamimi called on citizens to watch for the crescent of the lunar month of Ramadan on the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday to determine the start of the month. Anyone who sees the crescent is requested to call at the nearest Islamic court in his/her area to testify to that, Sheikh Tamimi said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

## EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery - Mecca Street.
- \* Art exhibition by artist Huda Sami Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre. th Art and photo exhibition by several Arab

artists at the Balga Art Gallery in Fubeis

- (Tal. 720902). Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Windawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by artists Akram Isawl and Jamal Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Cen-
- Plastic art exhibition by artist Shaker Abu Ghazaleh at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture
- \* Exhibition by Lebanese artist | ssein Madl at Darat Al Funun of the At al Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the

- "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)
- Art exhibition by Suha Noursi entitled "Landscapes" at the Hotel Jordan Inter-.Continental Gallery (8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.r.t.).

Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jorda-

nian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel.

Film entitled "The Colour Purple" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m. (155 mi-

## LECTURE

Lecture entitled "Art and Architecture" by Dr. Shamel Kubbeh at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

## POETRY RECITAL

Poetry recital by poet Rasmi Abu Ali at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00

# 5 persons die in separate incidents

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Five people died in separate incidents in the Kingdom last weekend. On Friday evening, one man was killed and 14 people were injured in a road accident on the Ruweished road, according to police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) re-

Obeidan N. Ali 50, an Iraqi national, was killed when the bus he was driving collided with a trailer bearing Iraqi tags and driven by Abdulla Dakhil, 33. The bus driver was rushed to Ruweished Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival. The injured were taken to the same hospital and were all reported in fair and good condition, CDD reports said.

Traffic officials who investigated the accident, which took place at 11:30 p.m., to said the bus driver

was speeding.
In Shouneh, a 10-year-old child drowned in the King Abdullah Canal. Ali Atayieh accidentally fell in the canal while arempting to drink from it, the boy's father told

Mr. Atayieh said his son started calling for help when he fell in the canal, but no one was able to save the youngster. Alt was rushed to Mou'az

Bin Jabal Hospital, but the attending physician said the boy died because the amount of water he swallowed caused his heart and respiratory system to stop functioning. Also Friday, a 35-year-old man died of smoke inhalation

in Irbid, according to police reports. Tareq M. Rashwan was the third person to die of asphyxiation while sleeping in the last week.

Mr. Rashwan was discovered by his employer, Mohammad Shehab, who told police he went to check on Mr. Rashwan and found him dead is his room with a kerosene stove still lit.

Salt police are investigating the death of an 11-year-old boy who was found hanged in the backyard of his house. The father of the boy told police that his daughter found her brother hanged with a rope and tried to rescue him by cutting the rope with a knife, but the child was

aiready dead. The boy's body was taken to Al Hussein Hospital for examination. Police reports gave no further details. Also Friday, a 30-year-old

man was found dead in his car of gunshot wounds in the yard of the Italian Hospital in Amman, police reports said. Fouad S. Abdullah was found dead in his car of gun-

shot wounds to the left side of

his face. Police also found a gun in the car. A doctor at the Italian Hospital told police that the victim bad suffered a nervous breakdown because his brother committed suicide six

months ago.

suicide.

to them. The doctor added that there is a significant possibility that Mr. Abdullah committed suicide because of his grief over his brother's Police reports attributed Mr. Abdullah's death to

that some of the programmes offered through the 28 channels which range from entertainment, music and films, to documentaries, features and mini series, for example, are

## JTV to offer alternative to satellites

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - For people who cannot afford the minimum JD 650 one-time-charge to purchase a television satellite that offers 28 channels, the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JTV) will soon offer five additional channels on a subscription basis at JD 300 for insurance and installation, plus JD 16 per month.

Although in the long-1erm the subscription rate would exceed the cost of a satellite dish. proponents of the 5-channel subscription service expect that most subscribers will be satisfied with the service, and if not, they are entitled to a refund of the JD 150 insur-

"The government cannot stop people from buying television satellites; therefore it should provide them with a substitute," Director-General of JTV Radi Alkhas told the Jordan Times. Furthermore, he said sometimes the channels received by satellites are unnecessary, and their languages may not be understood by many viewers, so the large number of channels is of no use

Mr. Alkhas pointed out that another element of concern is transmitted directly to the

viewer's home.

Therefore, he stressed, they are not subject to any kind of review. Thus some programmes' subject matter might be objectionable to some subscri-

plained, the subscription service offered by JTV has preselected 24-hour programmes which are considered acceptable and useful at the same

But, as Mr. Alkhas ex-

First channel: a local channel of Arabic and foreign programmes which offers a variety of documentaries, dramas, feature films, series, and enterlainment, with emphasis on quality Arabic productions; Second channel: CNN

hour world news service: Third channel: here the subscriber has three alternatives, either TV5 (a french channel). Super C channel or MTV (a 24-hour music channel);

(Cable News Network), a 24-

Fourth channel: a sports channel such as the Eurosports and the primesports: and Fifth channel: which is the

BBC World Service channel. As Mr. Alkhas put it "people are becoming increasingly interested in world affairs and have a desire to be updated on the current issues. Accordingly, a ministerial committee headed by the Minister of Information approved the pro-

This new service project is a cooperative effort between the

JTV and the Jordanian Company for Television. Radio and Cinema Production (JCTRCP)

(a private company). According to JCTRCP Director Jawad Maraqua, the company "obtained a loan from the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) to purehase the U.S.-made equipment needed to launch the new TV

service. Mr. Maragua told the Jordan Times that JTV owns the equipment and will repay the JCTRCP for the cost through the initial subscription earnings, and later revenues will go

to JTV. Mr. Maragua explained that the subscriber will pay JD 300 in advance (JD 150 as refundable insurance if the subscriber cancels the service and JD 150 for installation). The subscription fees, he said, are JD 16 per month for the maximum five channels available. ID 15 for four, JD 14 for three, JD 12 for two and JD 10 for one

Although the transmission was originally due to begin in January 1994, there were some problems in the installation of the 24 transmitters needed to launch the project. This delay, said Mr. Alkhas,

is caused by the frequency interference in mountainous Amman area.

The service is expected to begin sometime in February and will cover the capital, JTV hopes to expand the project to include the entire Kingdom.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facsimile: 696183

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## Save the children

THE CASE of the 8-year-old child tragically killed in a school bus accident in Amman a couple of days ago brings to the fore once again the urgency of providing our youngsters with more protection on the roads. Children constitute a special category of people who are highly vulnerable to our ways of driving and handling traffic problems. Countries which take the right of the child seriously enough have put in place several measures to enhance the safety of children. Road accidents and related threats to life figure prominently on the list of these concerns.

The case of Nour Mustafa who was dragged under the wbeels of the schoolbus that took her bome is a bizzare one bordering on criminal negligence. The negligence in Nour's situation is broad enough to touch not only the bus driver or its supervisor but also the school itself. Judging by what one sees at the early hours of each school day, school buses speed past other motor vehicles rather dangerously in a bid, it seems, to suit the driver's mood or time. The driving pattern of many bus drivers is so reckless and arbitrary that they should not have been allowed to drive students to and from schools.

This is where the civil and criminal responsibilities of schools lie. School authorities must be made accountable for their negligent choice of people in whose hands the lives of children are entrusted. In an effort to make more profit and save money; many private schools engage in arbitrary selection of drivers that often jeopardises the lives of our younger generations.

Moreover, we have yet to see schools, private or public, practise what all the civilised world has been practising for decades, namely, assign personnel in and around their campuses to supervise the traffic around the vicinity of the schools in order to stop vehicles when necessary to ensure safe entry and departure of pupils.

Besides legislating laws that make it incumbent on schools to make traffic in their environs more manageable for safe arrivals and departures, traffic police should be called upon to facilitate street crossings for children. Surely our traffic people notice on daily basis how our students try desperately to cross streets on their way to and from schools at a great risk to their lives. Why can't we do what all other advanced countries have been doing and start assigning policemen to stop traffic at designated crossings so that our boys and girls can cross with relative safety. Should we wait till scores of other children die before we start taking solid action? This is also a subject for Parliament to take up because their electors expect them to seize the initiative in seeing to it that such urgently needed corrective measures are taken for the benefit of our society at

## **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said Saturday that the explosions that wrecked the movie houses in Zarqa and Amman were not politically motivated but rather the work of criminals and the police and the security authorities will easily handle them. Tareq Masarweh said that he was of this view since no party has claimed responsibility for the attacks and no opposition group has declared war on the Jordanian society. He also expressed the view that the perpetrators were paid by foreign groups to destabilise the country which is already subjected to enormous pressures on all sides. The writer said that these explosions are going to fail to achieve their aims and would never shake the society's self-confidence because the society's elements of freedom and democracy are much stronger than the forces of evil which act in the dark. We were not surprised by these explosions as they aim at creating trouble for the country and are perpetrated by hostile forces that aim at imposing hegemony on Jordan and the Arab region, said the writer. Jordan, he continued, is not like Egypt or Algeria and those who planted the bombs to kill innocent people are not affiliated to political groups, otherwise we would have heard their claims. The writer called on Jordanian citizens to act collectively and stem this evil from its roots. noting that Jordanians are determined to safeguard their national interests.

DESPITE REPEATED declaration on the part of the concerned authorities that the war on unemployment will be won and that measures were under way to achieve that goal. one has little trust that such an objective will ever be attained, according to Abdullah Al Khatib, a columnist in Al Dustour daily. The writer said that there is no magic wand to deal with this problem which has been plaguing Jordan, and any observer and researcher can easily come to the conclusion that in the land is fighting a losing battle and that rhetorics and oratory speeches can do nothing to deal with the situation. Jordan, he stressed, an by no means fight unemployment and poverty

while its population continues to grow unchecked.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

# The fight against corruption should be done responsibly, based on proof

Seeing the outcome of the statements made by Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas, the minister of health, some things should be put in the right perspective. Those who took exception with both his approach and the contents of his statements did not do that for the benefit of the "corrupt monsters". They did so because they cannot be taken by words of anger and sensadonalism, and because they care about Jordan's reputation, internally and externally, its vital interests and the protection of the innocent from vague and generalised

Everyone knows that loopholes and malpractices do exist everywhere. That is why strict laws are enacted to deter potential violators. The minister is charged with the specific responsibility of finding these violators and bringing them to

The problem is that the minister generalised. He practically labelled all food and medicine dealers as greedy matiosi and monsters. The real victims of this generalisation are the honest traders who import and distribute our food and medicine. In my opinion, the exports, food, medicine and tourism sectors were hurt and the image of the country was tarnished. The economic damages are very hard to assess at this stage and most likely will be protracted.

It is not right for a responsible minister, with full authority to correct the wrong and to put the record straight, to create a sensation by going public and generalising.

Some commentators have welcomed the minister's statements "irrespective of the consequences" and of the damages that could have been wrought to trade, industry, exports, tourism or the country's image, which, irronically, was hailed by the Reuter news agency as the health centre of excellence in the Arab World on the very day the minister was unering his

I definitely agree that public confidence should not be built on deception and hiding the facts. The question therefore is whether the minister has facts. His statement in the Parliament on Wednesday showed that he has some impressions. On the other hand, we should ask ourselves: What about

setting a precedent?

If what Dr. Malhas did is acceptable, and a sure way to become popular and a man of principles, this may tempt the minister of water to go to the media and describe the water we drink as mixed with sewage water without being able to prove it. The minister of agriculture might be tempted to give an interview to a paper and claim that Jordanian vegetables and fruits are contaminated, poisonous and unfit for human

It could be an endless, destructive course of action whereby one could easily and unjustly throw wild accusations. Some of these ministers may have a grain of truth in their

assumed allegations. But should we accept their sweeping generalisations without hard evidence, then applaud them and call them heroes and men of principles, or, worse, candidates in the next elections with assured success?

It is our duty to strike hard against corruption, but to do so responsibly and supported by proof.

Listening to the lengthy statement of the minister of health in Parliament, one can easily conclude that he failed to prove that our food is trash, our traders are monsters, our medicine is not according to international specifications and our legal system yields to the pressures of the "sharks". On the contrary, he rephrased his previous statement to refer to a corrupt minority and talk about his efforts to supervise food shipmeots and prevent entry of suspect products.

Now the minister will have to substantiate his allegations

before public opinion in the country starts flowing in reverse.



M. KAHIL

# America is better off without a 'national identity'

**By Richard Sennett** 

NEW YORK - The Clinton administration has unveiled its plan to bring Americans together. Sbeldon Hackney. chairman of the National Endowment for the Humaoities, annoonced this month that the government would hold a series of televised "town meetings" aimed at overcoming ethnic rivairies. They will explore the bonds of community, the meaning of American identity and "how immigrant groups fit into the American

It is easy to sympathise with what Mr. Hackney, Bill Clinton and other sponsors of the forums want to achieve. They aim to eballenge the inwardturning racial, ethnic and sexual zealotry that denies America a common civic culture. Yet this is a deeply wrongheaded project.

First, it looks back on an America that never existed. From the beginning, American society bas been fragmented by differences of wealth, religion and language, as well as by the conflicts between slave and nonslave states. The waves of immigratioo after the Civil War did oot break apart a onified nation; they added new diversities to old divisions.

In some ways, we Americans are more divided today than during that first great immigrant wave. For example, because our society has become more open sexually, marriage and family no longer trace a clear design in people's lives.

Mr. Hackney is the latest in a long line of Americans who have sought to counter society's fissures by discovering a national identity or an American character. These phrases, however, merely display the gentlemanly face of national-

Nationalism creates a mythic land in which people understand themselves and each other. The myth disguises inequalities and legitimates

attacks on people whose lives are different. Immigrants who came to America three or four generations ago thus encountered great prejudices based on the supposed fact that they weren't yet "real Americans." Does Mr. Hackney feel bad

about this? Of course he does. Yet he asserts that it is "much better to start talking about American identity before getting into immigration issues." This supposes an America that is obscured by the presence of ontsiders, an America waiting for us once we stop obsessing about our differences.

much the danger of turning inward - a real temptation for any threatened group - as the more subtle challenge of how to avoid being defined by some-Not only is Mr. Hackney's blueprint for culture flawed in

stereotypes, they seek to de-

fine "us" in contrast to a thre-

atening "other." Members of

racial minorities (or homosex-

uals, immigrants, the elderly)

face the problem 19th century

immigrants faced. It is not so

principle, it is perverse in prac-

In the televised town meet-

"From the beginning, American society has been fragmented by differences of wealth, religion and language, as well as by the conflicts between slave and nonslave states. The waves of immigration after the civil war did not break apart a unified nation; they added new diversities to old divisions."

Of course, the very notion of an American identity is a sweeping stereotype, and the manipulation of such geoeralisacon lies at the very heart of nationalism.

The first wave of immigrants resisted falling under the sway of American stereotypes, as Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Nathan Glazer showed in their classic study "Beyond the Melting Pot." Immigrants and their heirs sought to preserve a more complex and mixed experience of cultural identity.

Also, stereotyped thinking will invariably pay more attention to divisive rabble-rousers than to sophisticated thinkers about ethnic problems. In such a scenario, an Al Sharpton would easily overwhelm a Cornel West. When people deal in

be wants "to give people a sense they have been heard." This is one of the oldest American techniques for dealing with communal tension. It began with the Puritans and was adopted and updated by psychological theory a generation ago in encounter groups and consciousness-raising ses-

ings, people will be given air

time to explain themselves to

each other. Mr. Hackney says

In this kind of meeting, people do not decide things. Instead, they attempt to rouse sentiments of sharing and community through selfrevelations and expressions of sympathy: "I feel your pain." These sorts of events tend to oversimplify our divisions and exclude the confusions inbe-

In intimate life, adolts connect to one another in part by accepting that they cannot often understand one another. Public discourse about "what we share" ignores this fact. And Mr. Hackney's "national conversation" will exclude from the televised picture those who do not easily open themselves up and commune.

rent in real experience.

Given the complexities of American society today, it is immensely important that people find ways to act together with those they do not understand or whom they dislike when they do understand.

The Clinton administration's finest achievements, like the North American Free Trade Agreemeot, have acknowledged that America is not an island. Mr. Clinton has rightly sought to address, as in his proposed health care plan, collective problems that affect different Americans in radicalfy different ways. Perhaps Mr. Hackney's pro-

ject is a symptom of how burdensome these responsibilities and realities feel. Talking about how we see each other and how we can come together is much more pleasant than reshaping the real America. But because this sort of pleasure has brought such terrible nationalistic and xenophobic consequences in the past-(and now as II, especially in the former Yrroslavia), I don't think this "n - nal conversation" should be shrugged off as just another million-dollar fol-

The challenge and the promise of American society lie in finding ways of acting together without invoking the evil of a shared national identity. To do so we need to draw on our capacity to cooperate rather than on our desire to com-

Mr. Hackney, by contrast, seems to offer a Serbian solution to the challenge of living with one another - The New

# Asia wonders if NAFTA a boon or a bane

By David Schlesinger

BEIJING - From the humming textile mills of south China to the shoe factories of Thailand, Asian managers are wondering how the new North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will hit their share of the lucrative U.S. market.

NAFTA, which began on Jan. 1, calls for trade barriers separating the United States, Canada and Mexico to fall within 15 years.

The question for Asian managers is whether this will be a threat to their exports or whether it creates a new, multi-billion dollar opportunity.

China. which has built its recent prosperity on the back of a booming export machine, sees NAFTA as a clear threat because Mexico may become the premier low-cost manufacturing base for the U.S. market.

"NAFTA is a severe challenge to China's foreign trade." the official newspaper of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation declared recently.

But other countries take a balanced view of the new trade grouping, foreseeing great opportunities as NAFTA builds business in North

"In the really long term, the economies of those regions will grow and this will be positive," no matter what the short-and medium-term risks, said Piamsak Milintachinda, director of the North American division at Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The market will be bigger and start buying products from around the world. This is a great opportunity for Thai-

Thailand, in compiling statistics about trade with NAF-TA as a bloc, found that in 1992 it was the country's biggest regional market, outpacing the European Union....

A key fear for other Asian economies is that their share of the U.S. market can be no longer assured.
"NAFTA will bring major

benefits to the world economy. lose market share in the United States," Taiwan's Economic Minister Chiang Ping-Kun told the export-oriented is-

Asked directly if she were worried that NAFTA would be negative for China, Wu Yi. minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, told a news conference there was a tendency in the world to form regional economic blocs.

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"I hope NAFTA will be open and non-exclusive. It should promote world trade and economy," she said.

A European diplomat said NAFTA is entirely negative for China, as Mexico, which borders the rich U.S. market, makes many of the same textiles and light industrial goods as China - and other Asian exporting powerhouses.

Mexican wages are low and the workforce is easier to control than China's," he said.

Beijing's official Xinhua News Agency took a similar line in a recent commentary when it said: "With the opening of the Mexican market. that country will attract more foreign investment from the U.S., Canada, the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan, who will take the opportunity to enhance their indirect exports to the (NAF-TA) zone.

Other economists downplay a threatened loss of market, saying that Asia's owo rapidly growing domestic demand for consumer products will more than balance out the danger.

"A lot of the people investing in China are looking at Asia as their final or penulti-mate market," said lan Perkin of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. "Mexico doesn't fit into tbat equation unless you're selling directly into the North American market.

Some Asian nations like Taiwan, where the average worker makes more than 1,000 per month, have already priced themselves out of the labourintensive market.

Others, like Indonesia which has just raised its minimum -wage to \$1.81 per day, are still extremely competitive. .. But even bureaucrats in

Jakarta are not prepared to be complacent about the challenge from NAFTA. donesian busi should increase their efficiency for greater competition in the

future," one official said.

## **LETTERS**

## An exercise in democracy

To the Editor:

Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas' recent statements have had a great impact oo and touched a sensitive chord in

Many media people inside Jordan and abroad have tackled the issue, which proves bow much importance is attached to For me, Dr. Malhas' declarations concerning food and

medicine assume a paramount importance for several reasons. First, the minister tackles a most serious issue: the sources from which some traders import food oot fit for consumption and medicine that does not meet international standards and

In additioo, be talks about "sharks" who insist on over 300 per cent profit oo medicine, all at the expense of the ordinary

Matters touching people's lives should be treated with utmost

A second point I would like to raise is the fact that revelations were made by a man on duty pinpointing the defects of his ministry. He is not an ordinary citizen who makes a passing remark, devoid of proof or meaning. His remarks should not therefore be taken lightly. This is a matter that ioterests every Jordanian and I think it

is now time for the representatives of the people to shoulder their responsibilities. People who voted for them are waiting to see bow the members of Parliament will treat the matter. The issue should not be "cootained" or shoved aside; based on its resolution, parliamentarians can win people's trust or

The third and most important thing is, in my opinion, the pheoomenon itself. It is indeed a new and eagerly awaited for thing, bardly found anywhere in the Arab World: a man in an important, vital office reveals to the press, in a daring and brave way, flaws and transgressions in his ministry.

We used to hear that everything was going the right way. I believe that the sooner we start addressing our problems, no matter how difficult, the faster the world will change in the

The minister has taken the first step in the right direction. Hopefully others will follow and with cooperation and honesty our beloved country becomes a much better place. The voices that made themselves heard on the matter show

that democracy is getting stronger and people feel safe to speak their mind. This situation gives us, the younger generation, the right to dream of a better future. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Malhas for his

> Mohammad Saleh Al Masri, Yarmouk University, P.O. Box 2685,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and cootributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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## Deputies rally behind Malhas

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bordering on paralysis" after the minister made his charges. 'We value Dr. Malhas' conrageous stand... regardless of the way he (made his charges) but we demand that he present the feature of his programme for reform," said

Mr. Mansour. In a fiery speech that included the strongest criticism of the government, Ms. Faisal also lashed out at fellow deputies who sought to question the abilities of Dr. Malhas and the accuracy of the charges he made in Wednesday's sessioo.

"All the attempts to cast doubts on what the minister has said have failed," said Ms. Faisal in criticism of the deputies who she said let the minister down in a precedent that can determine the shape of democracy in Jordan.

The case has been that deputies seek information and the government hides it from them, she said. For revealing information be has about corruption, Dr. Malhas deserves

praise and support, she said. Saying that she could list mote than a bundred reasons" for not trusting the government, Ms. Faisal said the government did not respond to Dr. Malhas' attempts to fight corruption and reform his ministry, citing his offer to resign from office twice as evidence for that.

"We are not about to hold (people) accountable here but we are here to initiate reform. Reform means that we have a government whose performance we can trust," she said.
As a mother, "I appeal to

your paternal feelings to support me in withholding confidence from the government," Ms. Faisal told deputies. She called on them to appeal to the King to designate a new government made of people wbose performance cannot be questioned."

Other deputies echoed calls for a thorough investigation of Dr. Malhas' charges, saying they know of cases of alleged corruption and attempts to sell unfit food in Jordan.

"No concessions could be made on this issue," said Deputy Mustafah Sbneikat, urging the government to stand by the bealth minister and the House not to restrict its response to speeches.

Over 20 more deputies are scheduled to talk on the issue Sunday when the House resumes its debate of Dr. Malhas' allegations.

## Yemeni mediation panel meets

(Continued from page 1) safety of its leaders and the start of implementing the accord before its leaders return from their Aden stronghold to

The all-party committee comprises 27 members, five from each of the coalition parties the GPC, the YSP and the Islah Party, five representing the opposition parties and seven independents.

The sources said opposition parties had arranged Saturday's meeting to agree on a date and a venue for the sign-

opposition for a meeting of the all-party committee on Wednesday was ignored by feuding parties.

Efforts by a special commit-

ing of the accord, decide on the non-Yemeni parties to be invited to attend the ceremony and work out security arrangements for the meeting and steps to be taken immediately

noon the signing. A previous call by the

tee over two weeks bave failed to narrow the gap between the feuding parties, the sources

#### Peres does not see accord this week

(Continued from page 1) agreement)... but it is Israel that refused to send a delegation this week to prepare for the ineeting on Monday," he

"The Israelis have deliberately held up the talks for two weeks... it is the Israelis who are wasting time," Dr. Shaath

On Friday a PLO source said that before deciding wbether to attend the Cairo talks Mr. Arafat was looking for a clear

had anthorised Peres to negotiate a final agreement with the Palestinians. Dr. Shaath said Mr. Rabin

"thinks in the short run be can wait more than we cao,' adding that he believed Mr. Rabin saw delay as a "bargain-

ing tactic."
He warned, however, that such a strategy could backfire in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. "In the long run, if he (Rabin) says "finished, I don't want to deal," "all hell will sign from Israel that Mr. Rabin break loose," Dr. Shaath said.

## Khartoum tense after attack

(Continued from page 1) support of Iraq in the 1990-91

Gulf crisis. Ansar Al Sunna do not openly oppose the government but strongly disapprove of its main bastion, the National Islamic Front (NIF) of Dr. Turabi. They bitterly oppose the close relationship with Iran's Shiite Muslims that Dr. Turabi forged for the govern-

In Cairo, Mohammad Abdul Rahman, chief aide to former Sodanese President Jaafar Numeiri, said the participation of foreigners is evidence that mainstream opposition groups

did not attack the mosque. "Our people in Khartoum suspect this was done by or planned by Turabi people," he

government and the NIF every now and then," Abdul Rahman said. "They just wanted to frighten them, make them shut their mouths, stop criticising government policy."

The Umma Party of ousted Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said the real casualty toll was 28 killed and 400 wounded.

"This massacre was planned and carried out by the National (Islamic) Front. Our sources tell us that the perpetrators were Sudanese and came and fled in government vebicles," the Umma party office in Cairo said in a statement.

"This dastardly crime coincided with an organised offensive against other mosque belonging to the Ansar Al Sunna in Abu Sied and Zaglouna (two Khartoum suburbs)," it

The Ansar Al "criticise the

## Israeli soldiers kill two

(Continued from page 1)

had the following account: The Fatch official, Iyad Abu he did not bave the money for the gun. A few minutes later, 15 men from the clan, masked and armed with guns and axes, house demanding payment, but were stoned by Mr. Zbu Anza and bis relatives. A member of the Abu Najah elan opened fire, killing 32-year-old der. The victim's family took revenge by torching the Fateb office in Rafah and beating

by Shati refugee camp demanded that the physicians observe the general strike and also wanted to protest against the arrest of one of their own by troops. The Fateh office in Gaza City issued a leaflet in which it distanced itself from the activists and said the 1,000 association members could complete balloting next week.

A senior Fateh official in Gaza, Sufian Abu Zaideh, told Reuters: "The situation is out of control and the nerves of

fourth day as soldiers searched four men who shot and wounded three Israelis on Wednesday. Residents said food and

"After three days of curfews the Israeli authorities agreed to give the municipality emergency services permission to make medicine and food available to the inhabitants," Hebron Mayor Abdul Majeed Al Zeer

told Reuters. carrying special permits to leave their houses in the curfew were afraid to go out because armed Jewish settlers, angry over the attack, were at

centre and an industrial base in the West Bank," the mayor said, "When curfew goes on for four days in the past week and for eight days in the past month, it is an unacceptable punishment. I bope the military authorities will lift this punishment as soon as possi-

# Let's put a proper price on trees

THE 20TH CENTURY

By Alan Thein Durning

WASHINGTON - Twothirds of the world's original forests have been felled, and despite a decade of well-meaning global initiatives the chainsaw is working faster than ever. Halting deforestation will require radical changes in property rights to forests, pricing of forest products and political power over the fate of

Current policies in both developed and developing countries accelerate forest loss by subsidising disposal of timber at cheap prices. In the United States, for example, the federal government's Forest Scrvice, which long denied that it was subsidising logging, said in April that it would stop selling omber from 62 of the 156 national forests it administers because they bad consistently

lost money on timber sales. Trees are worth a lot more standing than as lumber. The prescription drug industry alone is estimated to earn more than \$100 billion in annual' sales of drugs with active ingredients derived from forests. No one knows how many new medications may be developed from forest products as yet untested. Flood prevention, watershed stabilisation and fisheries protection services provided by forests are each worth billions of dollars a year.

Because such services fail to show up in conventional accounting systems, these benefits and the trees that provide them remain undervalued. Governments should tax, rather than subsidise, forest destruction. Then more of the value of forests would be reflected in the price of wood.

Charging visitors to U.S. national forests just \$3 per day would generate more revenue than selling timber from those forests does now. The proceeds would be a powerful incentive for the U.S. Forest Service to preserve areas under their control instead of promoting timber cutting and

The first priority for creating a sustainable forest economy is a property rights system that atlies the interests of forest dwellers with the health of forest ecosystems. Reforestation initiatives in developing countries routinely fail when the forest land is under the exclusive control of the state rather than of local residents.

Thousands of recent examples show that joint management systems, in which residents benefit from forest use and protection, produce tangible results for conservation. Some 10,000 villages in India

are sharing management responsibilities in an area of about 1.5 million hectares. The concept has been gaining popularity elsewhere in Asia and in Africa.

Meanwhile, a few nations in the American tropics have taken more decisive strides towards forest tenure reform. Under intense grass-roots pressure, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela have all recognised land rights of tribes that have inhabited and conserved the forests for hundreds of years. Each of these countries has demarcated vasi areas in the Amazon basin as indigenous homelands. While there are serious problems in enforcing these regula-

for development, it is nonetheless a hopeful sign for the world's forests. Goods and services from the

woods provide more money and jobs than chopping down. trees. The scenic and recreational benefits of forests earn billions of dollars for both the growing nature tourism industry and local residents. In the United States, the market value of nonumber forest products, such as berries, decorative plants and mushrooms, may exceed that of solid wood The market for just one

forest product from Southeast Asia, rattan palm stems used to make wicker furniture, is

worth \$3 billion a year. In Belize, expert gatherers of forest products can earn between two and ten times as much per hectare as farmers who clear the trees for crops. Without secure control of these resources, however, their

ployment will be lost. Écological pricing should be the second priority for creating a sustainable forest economy. Virgin timber is priced far below full cost.

potential for sustainable em-

For instance, the price of teak does not reflect the costs of flooding that rapacious teak logging has caused in Burma. Nor does the price of oldgrowth fir from the U.S. Paci-fic Northwest include losses

suffered by the fishing industry because logging destroys agi-

These related strains are the first recourse of scientific breeders in seeking to protect crops against new pests and diseases. Export sales of coffee, cocoa beans and other commodities that trace their origins to forests in the tropics and subtropics exceeded \$20 billion in 1991.

To crease a permanent forest economy will require political; change. Unless the strong grip of big omber interests — the miners, ranchers and other resource extractors — can be broken, forest conservation will be difficult if not impossible.

In Malaysia, clear-cutting is driven by handous of logging licences that are a major form of patronage for politicians. Officials distribute concessions to loyal supporters, who level the trees for quick profits.

In varying degrees, this bond pervades all the world's major timber economies. From 1985 to 1992 in the U.S. timber states of Washington and Oregon, the wood products industry outspent environmentalists 6-to-l in contributions to congressional candidates. As a result, those grateful members of Congress set higher logging targets for national forests in their districts than the Forest Service itself recommended.

The ultimate challenge is to make ecological services sufficiently remunerative for all groups involved - residents. logging towns and government agencies — so that they act as defenders, not destroyers, of

The writer is a researcher for Worldwatch Institute in Washington and author of "Saving the Forests: What Will fr Take?" This article is reprinted from the International

# Gaza workers live in hovels, work on palaces

By John West

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP -Mohammad Fathi scized his chance when the bus driver spotted an Israeli police car

near Tel Aviv just after dawn. "Turn off the main road, quiek, we don't have work permits," he shouted. Others from bis crew joined him and the driver, against a storm of protest from other passengers, made a three-km detour into the city's plush Ramat Gan suburb to lose the police car.

"Of course we do have permits, but look, we've saved ourselves the walk," Fathi explained as he got off the bus. "Getting bread in your mouth is all about deception."

The 34-year-old college graduate spends more than five hours a day commuting be-tween the million-dollar villa in Israel he is working on as a filer and the room with a leaky iron roof in Gaza, where he sleeps with his wife and four

But by Gazan standards Fathi is lucky. He has a wellpaid job, one of fewer and fewer as Israel - fearing attacks by Muslim fundamentalists and Palestinian radicals - clamps down on Gazan workers crossing to

work in the Jewish state. The government closed the border completely for three months last year, shutting off an estimated 55,000 Gazans from jobs that supported up to 300,000 people in the strip and form one of the main sources

Since then it has yielded slowly to pressure from Israeli employers who say they need the workers to perform lowpaid menial jobs Israelis are not prepared to do themselves, while setting the goal of cutting Palestinian labour to a minimum.

"There seems to be a two-

track policy now," said Jaber

Al Odaih, an economist at the Maan Centre for Research in Gaza. "Palestinians, particularly Gazans, are known as hard workers and have been allowed back into two main fields, construction and agriculture. On the other hand, the trend is to remove Palestinians from jobs like waiting in restaurants or services where there is contact with the Israeli public, and replace them with less politicised Arabs from inside Israel, or foreigners," he

Gazans now cross Erez checkpoint to work in Israel every day. Israel's civil-run administration quotes a higher figure of 23,000 workers with work permits but many bave to pay buge fines or taxes before they can go back to work.

In the good old days — as both Israelis and many Palestinians remember them - before the uprising began in 1987, up to 80,000 Gazans worked in Israel, travelling freely in and out in private cars looking for work.

Under the new system, Palestinians are granted work permits only when a specifie Israeli employer asks for them by name. They can travel only by specially licensed buses.

Workers are thrown into a chaotic and murky world of scams and alliances in order to get and keep jobs - and get paid by unscrupulous bosses. Under a complicated administration which few of them understand, they fall prey to huge taxes and rampant bureaueracy where Palestinians allege corruption is widespread.

At Erez checkpoint in the cold dark of a winter's morning, thousands of workers stand blearily in line waiting to present permits to Israeli soldiers. Hundreds of hawkers work the queues selling tea and sandwiches in the liveliest street market in Gaza — recognition of the migrants' buying

Dark shadows flicker in a nearby orchard, as men run between trees, hiding and waiting for Israeli border police sitting in jeeps to be distracted for even a few seconds to give them the chance to scale the perimeter fence and cut through razor wire.

Palestinians say others hide in bus luggage compartments and car boots, sometimes smuggled across for a fee by Israeli settlers. Fathi, who earns about 80

how he once got back almost 6,000 shekels (\$2,000) from an employer who refused to pay The Palestinian impersonated an Israeli to get past

security guards in the man's

shekels (\$25) a day, recalls

office and enlisting the help of another Israeli contractor, of Libyan origin, to threaten legal

"Me and the Libyan, we're not exactly friends, neither of us calls the other one to ask after his health. But we're good allies. He helped me because be knows I can bring him a good team of workers whenever he needs one," he said.

A group of workers gathered in his house complain for bours about getting up early, the fines they pay, the hard work and the humiliation of being ordered about by Israeli foremen they regard as lazier, more stupid and better paid

But they will keep on going back as long as they can. There is nothing, no food without Israel," said Khalil Bilal, another construction worker, "That's the way it is,

you can either accept the rules of the game or starve." The coming of Palestinian self-rule is expected to boost the local job market in Gaza as hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign aid pour into the strip to build labour-intensive infrastructural projects.

But income from workers in Israel will still form a vital part of the local economy and Palestinian leaders are trying to negotiate more work permits for Palestinians from both Gaza and the Wesi Bank. Israeli officials have said

they will consider allowing more workers back but it is not clear if they will allow the same numbers of workers as before the uprising or even the closure last year.

AMMAN - Senior mana-

gers working with the multi-

national pharmaceutical com-:

pany The Wellcome Founda-

tion Ltd., participated in a

management workshop at the

Holiday International Hotel

These managers were from

U.K., Russia, Serbia, Tur-

Aqaba last week.

Wellcome managers hold

workshop in Aqaba

# Opponents seen unlikely to derail S. African vote

By Rodney Pinder

JOHANNESBURG - Militant whites and Inkatha Zulus opposing South Africa's first all-race election in April pose the threat of increased violence but will not derail the vote or

negate the result, analysts say. The white right could attack polling booths, voters and the black-led government certain to emerge, and there could be a wider uprising from disaffected Zulus in Natal province and in migrant worker hostels elsewhere. ..

But diplomatic and political experts predict the security forces, backed by the African National Congress (ANC) of Nelson Mandela, and the National Party of President F.W. de Klerk, will hold the line nationally, ensuring the election is judged broadly free and fair by the world.

"The international community wants this election. South Africa only has one go and this is the go," said one western diplomat.

Although probably containable in political terms, sustained violence could have a grave economic impact, the analysts said.

It could badly distract the new national unity government - expected to be led by the ANC - from economic priorities aimed at ensuring stable growth and redressing apar-theid distortions, and would scare off vital foreign invest-

"If things go wrong, like reaching a certain level of violence that edges towards civil war, the money that has come in could go out again," said portfolio Manager Rob Lee of the board of Executors Investment House.

key, Jordan, Saudi Arabia

The visit to Aqaba was

done through Loisirs Tour

Operator. The visitors

praised the services all over

Jordan and expressed satis-

faction with their stay in

Agaba, with its ideal climate.

and Lebanon.

Foreign investors bought a net 3.2 billion rand (\$1 billion) of equities in 1993 and 794 million rand (\$265 million) in the first three weeks of this

Rapid reconstruction and development and the creation of jobs on a huge scale are seen as essential to bring peace to black communities riven by unemployment, crime and political violence in which 14,000 people have died in the past four years - and to ensure the long-term survival of the new

Analysts cautioned against too much gloom following the latest deadlock in constitutional negotiations between the government and ANC on the one, hand and the Freedom Alliance, mainly comprising conservative whites and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Although prospects tor an ideal all-inclusive election look bleak now, contacts will continue behind the scenes. Mr. de Klerk has said consistently that disaffected parties will be able to join in right up to April 27, the first voting day.

Sources close to negotiations say government and ANC efforts will focus on the position of Zulu King Goodwill Zweliihini and other Zulu leaders apart from Dr. Buthelezi, and possible splits in the white right between wartalking neo-Nazis and calmel

Some analysts, however, question whether the National Party and the ANC might not secretly welcome an alliance boycott. The ANC would' sweep Natal. Inkatha's home province, and the NP would probably glean the entire white conservative vote. Polls show 80 per cent of right-wingers would vote regardless of their

If the brinkmanship results in a final falling-out, "there is little doubt violence will escalate enormously," said Risk analyst Wim Booyse.

leaders' position.

Big flare-ups could be expected in Natal, where lnkathaand ANC Zulus have been fighting since 1984, and in bar-. rack-like Zulu hostels in townships around Johannes: burg, the business heart of the nation, to where the conflict

spread in 1990. Even if leaders such as Dr. Buthelezi stress passive resistance to the new order, analysts fear that followers fired by rhetoric and fuelled by decades of racial hatred could run wild.

White attacks on key installations such as power supplies and election booths could test the lovalty of the white-led security forces 10 the new order. But analysts generally expect the professional ranks of the armed forces to hold.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East providing education, health and relief and social services to Palestine refugees requires a

REALITY DATA BASE ADMINISTRATOR for its Supply Division based initially at its headquarters in Vienna and after July 1, 1995, in Amman. The incumbent will be responsible for the set up and maintenance of all support files in REALITY (a purchasing and materials management software system), including item master catalogue, vendor lists, addless lists, currency tables, etc. He/she will also provide on-the-job training to Supply Division staff on the use of REALITY and act as first line support for usars. The

supply procedures.
Essential quelifications are: 1. University degree in business administration or computar science,

ideal candidate will have extensive experience in the management of

PC data base applications and lamiliarity with purchasing and

or a related subject. 2. Minimum five yaars axperience in application of the knowledge acquired above.

3. PC and Novell Lan experience, including basic hardware opera-

Applications before 28 Fabruary 1994 to:

 Familiarity with data base management concepts. 5. Fluency in English and Arabic language. Starting monthly salary in Vienna is AS40,938 plus allowances.

Coordinator, UNRWA Heedquarters Brench (Amman) (AVN-V/1/94), UNRWA HQ Branch (Amman) P.O.Box 484 - Amman-Jordan, Fax No. 82 61 79

UNRWA is an equal opportunity amployar and welcomes applications equally from men and women. Normally many applications are received. Wa will only be sble to raspond to those applicants in whom the agency has a further interest.

Anza, told the Abu Najah clan showed up at Mr. Abn Anza's Suleiman Abu Jazar, a bystan-

Mr. Abu Anza. At Gaza City's Azhar University, elections to the council of the medical association were cut short Friday afternoon by about two dozen Fatch activists who smashed physicians' car windows

The activists from the near-

people are pressed harshly." The West Bank town of Hebron was under curfew for a medical supplies were running

But he said some individuals

"Hebron is a commercial

#### Mobammad Madoukh of the Palestinian Trade Union Federation estimated about 13,000

# **U.S.** raises interest rates for first time in five years

U.S. central bank raised shortterm interest rates for the first time... in five years Friday, announcing the move in an rapsecedented statement that sent stock prices plunging by nearly 100 points.

"Chairman Alan Greenspan announced today that the Federal Open Market Committee decided to increase slightly the degree of pressure on reserve positions," the statement said. "The action is expected to be associated with a small increase in short-term money market interest rates.

The quarter percentage point increase brought the key federal funds rate to 3-1/4 per cent: The Federal Reserve (Fed) said it took the action to sustain and enhance the economic expansion", presumably by limiting any inflationary

The announcement stunned financial markets, sending stocks which bad been flirting with the historic 4,000 level on the Dow Jones industrial average plummeting some 96 points for the biggest single day drop in more than two

The move was particularly surprising to many since it

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul's

stock exchange, a star emerg-ing market in 1993, has slid

rapidly downhill this year as

confidence in the Turkish eco-nomy sags.

The index has sunk 38 per

cent since Jan. 13 to close at

17,894.88 on Friday, down

592.86 points or 3.2 per cent

from the previous day. Brokers

expect a long wait before

stocks recover. Prices must fall more," said

Ali Nezib Akyol, securities

månager at Turk Ekonomi

He said that only a price/

eathings ratio - the price of a

shace divided by net earnings

per share — of around six

averaged for the market from

15 now could spark some in-

investors with high-cost port-folios to dispose of," he added.

second best emerging market

after Poland last year, rising a

meteoric 194 per cent in dollar

But where brokers once

pushed and shoved to snap up

shares, sellers now dominate

the two-hour session, locking

boards within half an hour as

prices hit lower limits for the

one trillion lira (\$56 million)

on Thursday from an average

Daily turnover was down to

terms.

Istanbul was the world's

"A liquidity crisis is yet to

ment reported the economy last month created a disappointing 62,000 jobs last

Analysts, bowever, said the poor jobs performance was due to bitter cold that gripped the northeast last month and did not reflect underlying economic weakness.

The federal funds rate is the rate at which banks trade overnight money amongst themselves in the money market and acts as a benchmark for other interest rates in the economy. It bas stood at three per cent since September 1992.

The administration reacted calmly to the Fed action although the response from Capitol Hill questioned whether the central bank had acted too soon.

"The Fed bas a bair-trigger response when it comes to fighting inflation," said Senator Paul Sarbanes, a Maryland

"They are tightening before there is evidence of inflation, even before there is a real threat of future inflation," he

U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told Reuters the rate rise had been expected and would not burt growth.

dives as economy totters

of four trillion lira (\$224 mil-

hung in, picking cheap stocks

such as KOC Group shares for

their emerging market funds.

demand for dollars flared in

mid-January, forcing the cen-

tral bank to devalue the lira by

12 per cent last week and hoist

Banks followed suit, raising

their one-year deposit rates to

about 95 per cent from 85

before the currency chaos. Devaluation eroded profits

of many companies in the first

quarter of this year and put

year-end forecasts in doubt.

Many firms are expected to

shelve dividend payments for

dollar value in January, com-

whole of last year.

check.

The lira lost 17 per cent of its

Although overnight interest

rates have come down to

around 130 per cent from 600

last week, economists say the

central bank may need to raise

them again to hold the dollar in

The central bank, whose re-

serves shrank to \$5.39 billion

on Jan. 28 from \$6.3 billion at

the end of 1993, has been

uneasy about intervening to

sell dollars to prop up the lira.

kets board to encourage inves-

tors by issuing new decrees to

Efforts by the capital mar-

3 per cent over th

short-term interest rates.

Trouble hit the market when

Only foreign buyers have

Turkish stock market

lion) in January.

The economy still looked set to ach eve growth this year of three per cent, he added.

The administration expects long-term interest rates on ever thing from home mortgages to corporate bonds to remain low because of its tough action to cut the budget deficit.

The White House is slated to unveil a budget plan Monday for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 that will show a sharp drop in the deficit through higher taxes and lower spend-

Mr. Greenspan set the stage for Friday's action when he told Congress last week that interest rates were "abnormally low" and said they would bave to be raised eventually.

The Fed chairman argued that tighter credit would not cut off the economie expansion, but rather sustain it by preventing a damaging rise in inflation that could send longterm interest rates spiking higher and undermine growth.

"Monetary policy has been geared to a recession and we clearly are not in that now, said Michal Moran of Wall Street broker Daiwa Securities

The economy surged by 5.9 per cent in the fourth quarter

allow equity funds to trade in

the exchange and back re-

purchase agreements have had

of the stock market as institu-

tional demand for tax-free

Brokers said only rapid pri-

vatisation might boost the de-

pressed market. But one

malyst said: "We can't bny on

this assumption in a volatile

is planning new moves to speed

no sell-offs and expects to raise

over \$700 million by end-

It has already announced

that a 21.13 per cent stake in

Fiat-owned car-maker Tofas

Otomobil Fabrikasi would be

sold in domestic and global

markets in the first week of

monthly inflation rise sent an

ominous signal on Friday to

embattled Prime Minister Tan-

su Ciller, who faces local elec-

The State Institute of Statis-

tics said consumer prices rose

4.4 per cent in January, up

from 3.6 per cent in Decem-

February figures are likely to

show a steeper rise as the

effects of a 12 per cent lira

devaluation on Jan. 26 work

their way through the import-

Meanwhile, Turkey's latest

The privatisation body KOI

Banks bave also pulled out

little impact.

equity-funds faded.

place like Turkey.

March.

of last year - its best performance since 1988.

A Fed spokesman said the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee voted unanimously to tighten credit.

The spokesman denied the unprecedented announcement was in response to congressional pressure for the Fed to be more open. He also said it was not meant to signal the start of a new policy of making public

Fed policy changes.

House Banking Committee Chairman
Henry Gonzalez has sharply attacked the Fed for being too secretive, calling it an elite club out of touch with general public. The Texas Democrat bas been pressing for major changes in the way the central bank does business and discloses its actions.

Several analysts saw Friday's move as the start of a series of interest rate increases by the Fed designed to head off higher inflation next year. Mr. Bentsen said he would not be surprised to see the Fed act

again later this year. "We're expecting them to continue to tighten credit for the next 12 to 18 months," said David Wyss of consultants DRI/McGraw Hill. He expects the federal funds rate to rise to 4-1/2 per cent by next spring.

## Iraq's banks accept dollars at open

market rates BAGHDAD (R) - Iraq.

starved of bard cash, allowed state banks to buy and sell bard cash at rates comparable to the open market Saturday.

The surprise move followed years of adherence to an official rate of \$3.2 per dinar. In past weeks the local currency collapsed against the dollar. which at one stage fetched as many as 260 dinars.

The dinar firmed following the announcement as many traders feared banks might interfere by selling their remaining stocks of bard currency.
The banks and Baghdad's

licensed exchange houses bought dollars at 190 dinars on Saturday but traders siad the greenback was worth more on the black market. The official newspaper Al

Qadissiya warned against trading in hard cash outside permitted outlets. It quoted Dhiya Habeeb Al Khayoun, director of Rafidain Bank, as saying the government was keen to stabilise the dinar's exchange rate.

"The dinar is target of a big conspiracy waged by Iraq's enemies," he told the news-

The paper said the dollar lost 30 per cent of its value against the dianr immediately after the government announcement

## Asia's developing countries eye Vietnam challenge

JAKARTA (R) — Asia's prospering economies welcome the business and investment opportunities of developing Vietnam but worry it will become a competitive threat.

Reflecting Asia's growth and confidence, officials and economists were upbeat over the weekend about the challenges last Thursday's lifting of the U.S. trade embargo present to their low-wage, exportorientaled economies.

Vietnam, a poor but rapidly growing nation of 70 million, is looking for foreign direct investment of \$12 to \$15 billion by 2000 to sustain the upgrading of infrastructure, industrialisation and annual economic growth of eight per cent.

"It's good for Indonesia. It's good for Asia," Anwar Nasution, an economics lecturer at the University of Indonesia. said. "It means opportunities for developing countries in

Indonesian State Secretary Murdiono said: "I see competition with Vietnam in attracting investment as positive. It should be a stimulus for us to work more efficiently so we can compete.

Thailand said the lifting of the decades-old embargo suited Bangkok's plan to be-come a jumping-off point for foreign business and bankers into Indochina.

"As a gateway to Indochina, we feel there's much Thailand has to offer," government spokesman Ahhisit Vejjajiva, said.

Thai businessmen said the country's low-end textile and agricultural industries could feel the competitive threat of Vietnam's low wages and relatively high productivity but most businesses should not have to dramatically change the way they compete.

China, which fought a border war with Vietnam after Hanoi's 1978 invasion of Cambodia, said improved U.S.-Vietnam relations would benefit stability and prosperity in the region.

Chinese spokesman, Wi Jianmin, declined to say if U.S.-Hanoi rapprochement would suck American investment away from China, where it has become the mainstay of economic construction.

The U.S. embargo was imposed on what was then North Vietnam in 1964 and was then expanded to cover all of Vietnam when Saigon fell in 1975. With U.S. firms on the side-

lines, non-U.S. investment of \$7.8 billion has been pledged for 850 projects in Vietnam. Philippine President Fidel Ramos said the lifting of the embargo would help form a liberal trade environment and promote regional peace and stability, the presidential palace said. Mr. Ramos said the antici-

pated increase in investment and trade between Vietnam and the United States would present both challenges and opportunities to countries in India, which has only started

to liberalise its economy after years of protection, would be adversely affected by the lifting of the embargo, American offi-"India will have to work that

much harder to woo American and other investors," a New Delhi-based U.S. diplomat

Indian businessmen, however, were less pessimistic.

"It's a challenge we should welcome," said M. Roy, direc-tor of the Confederation of Indian Industry, an apex body of Indian business groups. There is the prospect of increased Indian joint ventures with third countries in Vietnam," he added.

Sri Lanka, where textile and garments accounted for almost 50 per cent of total exports in 1992, said it could be affected by Vietnam's cheap and productive labour.

"Our labour is not cheap anymore. The Vietnamese are said to be hardworking people. they will be very competitive, a trade ministry official said.

Japan union membership

falls to all-time low

TOKYO (R) - Japan's once-thriving labour movement has

registered as union members, according to an official labour

The labour ministry said only 12.6 million or 24.2 per cent of

Japan's 52.33 million employees belonged to unions in 1993, a

The ministry said the industrial structure was changing and

more and more full-time and part-time workers are being hired

Japan saw its total workforce expanding by 940,000 to 52,33 million people during the year to June 30, 1993, while the number

Union membership has fallen steadily since 1975, when

Fierce dispute between labour and management, including long

FAIR ENOUGH, PET SEEING AS YOU'VE

organised labour accounted for almost 35 per cent of the-

strikes, were common in the 1960s and early 1970s because of

workers' anger over low wages and poor living standards.

of unionsided workers grew by 123,000 to 12.66 million.

record low since free trade unions in 1945.

workforce, the report said.

in the service sectors with low unionisation rates."

# Arab World stock markets smothered by public sector

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The domination of the public sector is still smothering stock mar-kets in the Arab World despite attempts to develop the exchanges as part of economic reforms, officials have said.

Although most Arab nations have embarked on large scale reforms to end decades of state control, the private sector bas remained limited and the economy lacks diversity needed for attracting investment, they

"Arab states are now more convinced than ever of the need to develop their stock markets to attract investment and increase economic growth rates," said Jassim Al Manai. chairman-designate of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

"But there are several obstacles blocking development of the markets, especially the limited role of the private sector. It has remained marginal and without giving it a greater role in mobilising economic resources, development of the Arab stock markets will not be possible." Mr. Manai, a Bahraini who

takes over the Abu Dhabibased fund in April, was speaking at a conference on Arab economic reforms and stock markets held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last week. His remarks were carried by the UAE semi-official daily Al Ittihad.

He said accelerating economic reforms, mainly privatisation, would sharply boost activity in Arab stock exchanges.

"Economic ownership has a" curcial role in upgrading stock markets whether in the Gulf or other Arab countries," he said." "But what is required is that we should reduce the public sector's ownership not only its. role."

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(Micella)

Several Arab states bave embarked on reforms to revive their economies that have been wrecked by decades of government domination, instability, faulty planning and mismanagement of funds.

But officials attending the economie conference last week admitted such reforms have failed to attract overseas Arab funds, which they estimated at around \$650 billion, far higher than the combined . Arab gross domestic product of \$450 bil-

lion in 1992. Outgoing AMF Chairman Osama Al Faqih, a Saudi, blamed the undeveloped Arab stock markets for the capital flight. He said markets lacked proper legislations, market makers and other specialised institutions.

'Most Arab markets are still burgeoning markets. We are trying to develop our market but we need time," director of the Omani stock market, Mahmud Al Jarwani, told AFP by telephone from Muscat, "I think we can benefit from each other's experience and from the more developed world markets.

Only 10 of the Arab League's 22 members have official exchanges but activity in such markets have remained relatively small,

#### **HOROSCOPE**

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have the ingenuity and opportunity to gain some of your immediate aims at the present time and you have the energy to schedule your activities wisely. Only positive results will occur.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your greatest benefits can come now by being altruistie and lend a nelping hand to allies and good friends so you can have the benefit of their friendship.

The measure of your success in intelligence with which you handle others and everyone you meet in the outside world.

understanding.

VIRGO: (August 22 10 September 22) Express the Virgo motto "I Serve" whenever possible now, since you can gain much in the future by being kind, altruis-tie to those around you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-

ber 22) You have been much tested in the past as to patience and goodness, but now things begin to happen for you, and must not hesitate to accept in-

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A new cycle is about to begin for you and now is the time to make the most of any enterprises which you are currently working upon. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Executent hunches will be yours on this free day and it would be wise to write them down for use wisely in the future. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you want 10 gain greater success, today is a good time 10 go together informally with associates and come to a far belier

vitations, prepare for a happy and successful future.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Many situations require sincere and injettigent thought and handling so that you achieve the harmony you desire, so make it a point to invite interested parties on this free

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a seeking and inquiring mind, and if you make the effort to contact highly philosophical individuals, you will gain much wisdom and many new, constructive ideas for

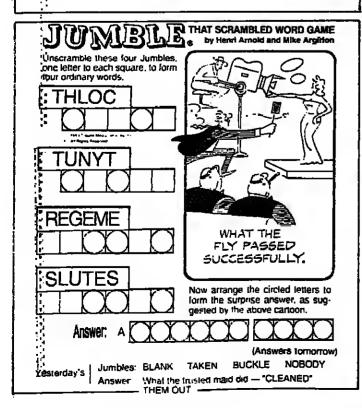
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A day to think out how you can better your position in life, make home conditions more harmonious and expand in every direction possible.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) By being very dynamic and happy today, you will please others so much that soon you increase circle of friends appreciably among the worthwhile and this leads to real success you deserve.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make this a day for mediation and the absorption of finer philosophical ideas that will lace you more in tune with what is night and proper.

# THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen GLASBERGEN "I dreamed the tea kettle whistled

when you walked by, so you sued it for harassment.



## Peanuts

dependent economy.

tions in March.



## **Andy Capp**



## Mutt'n'Jeff



# THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Benshoof 16 — Lisa 19 Conditio 19 Condition 20 Lively parties 22 Particle 23 Make belove 24 in good heaf 26 Flat-topped h 29 Watch out for 33 Blackboard 27 Blackboard 33 Blackboard 37 Uses an ab Yesterday's Puzzle Solved: 50 Eyes 52 Full of cracks 13 Legal paper 21 Noblewome 25 Away: abor. 66 Representative 67 ".\_shall bring Wound mar

## Kuwait seen losing large oil output in war fire

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait is estimated to have lost about three times its annual production in 1991 Gulf war oil fires but preliminary studies show its largest oilfield, burgan, suffered no substantial damage. economists said Saturday.

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Al Shall Economie Consultancy, commenting on an oil ministry policy statement issued last week, said early results of a study of war damage to tthe oil reservoirs was one of several issues of central importance being debated by oil officials.

"The Buran study will be finalised before August 1994 and initial results of reservoir studies that have been concluded and Kuwait Oil Company estimates have both indicated oo substantial damage occurred," its weekly economic review said. "On the other hand, production losses from wells blazes are estimated to be three times regular annual production.

Al Shall did not give a figure for the losses. Based on current output of 2.0 million barreis per day (b/d), three times annual production would amount to 2.19 billion barrels.

Oil industry reference publications have estimated up to 1.5 billion barrels were lost during the oil fires. Burgan's 50 billion barrels of

crude put it in the super-giant class. Kuwait has an estimated 95 billion barrels of crude, around 10 per cent of the world's recoverable reserves.

Al Shall said it was certain its remarks were "in line with the ministry's communique. The communique lacked some clarity which could probably by attriboted to political

## World Bank to speed up loans to Lebanon BEIRUT (Agencies) — A senior World Bank team left

The team spent four days in Beirut discussing joint development programmes with

report on the visit's results to the World Bank administration to speed up the decision on some set loans for Lebanon in the fields of health, education and irrigation," team member

The programmes are being financed under a \$175 million World Bank loan granted last

The team members, wbo beld talks with Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri before their departure, are all World Baok executive directors. They ar-

"Our visit was fruitful and \$920 million dollars in loans

Italy topped the list of creditors, with \$394 million aimed mainly at the reconstruction of Lebanon's electricity network.

The European Union and the Luxembourg-based European Investment Bank came second with \$266.5 million also earmarked for power, water and ports projects.

The Saudi Monetary Fund legation in Beirut is spending was third in extending aid two weeks assessing Lebanon's worth \$230 million, followed by the World Bank which provided \$175.5 million and Kuwait with another S114 million.

> France has meanwhile offered to provide \$450 million for the revamping of Lebanon's electricity grid. Mr. Hariri said, adding that power would be ensured 24 hours a day throughout the country by the end of 1995.

Meanwhile, the head of Lebanon's businessmen's federation has praised the government for the "professionalism and credibility" of its financial

policies but arged Mr. Harin to stimulate the economy, fight unemployment and improve health insurance.

Selim Zeeni, president of the Federation of Businessmen's Associations, said in its first full year in office in 1993 the government had launched projects to rebuild infrastructure and had restored monetary stability and cut inflation.

"This financial policy brought about a reduction of the budget deficit and reflects a professionalism and credibility which have permitted progress from total anarchy to rationalism in managing financial affairs," Mr. Zeeni said in remarks published in Beirut newspapers.

But he said the government needed a plan to stimulate all sectors of the economy and urged it to set up an economic and social council that would give businessmen a share in decisions affecting reconstruc-

"We want to take part in

decision-making because reconstruction is not limited to issuing tenders for contracts," Mr. Žeeni said,

He said the reconstruction effort needed a matching attempt to reduce unemployment and improve professional training and called for the creation of a medical insurance system 10 avert dramatic situations for the poor and ensure that Lebanon did not face serious social crises in the long

In another area, a member of the committee setting up the secondary stock market was quoted as saying Friday that Lebanon's planned secondary market will continue to operate even after the official Beirut Stock Exchange is reactivated.

But he said shares of Solidere, the recently floated \$1.8 billion company that will rebuild central Beirut, would have to be traded on the official exchange once it

secondary market in Lebanon is mandatory," said Nabil Aoun, who also heads the stockbrokers association of the official bourse which closed in

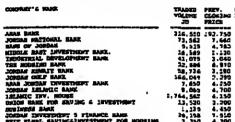
He told the daily newspaper Al Anwar: "We can keep the secondary market going but the Solidere shares would have

to move to the bourse." Stockbrokers who have been idle sioce the official exchange closed feel they are being frozen out of the planned secondary market and are asking that the official exchange be reopened.

Antoine Khawagea, head of the last official stock exchange committee, told Al Anwar in a separate interview the authorities were trying to bypass the

"They want to pull (quoted) companies out of the bourse and trade their shares in the secondary market. That's what. I am against," he said.

## MOON FINANCIAL MARKET



EMBELIG HETRIAL CONSCRETAL & AGRICUM DAN MORSTED MILLS MINICENTICAL MUMOFACTURING

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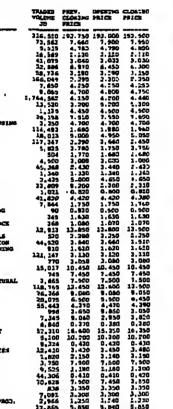
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## **Jordan Times** Cairo Amman Bank

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Ситтепсу	Hew York Close Dute 3/2/94	New York Close Date 4/2/94
Sterling Pound	1.4874	1.4775
Deutsche Mark	1.7415	1.7610
Swiss Franc	1.4515	1.47?5
French Franc	5.9065	5.9610
Japanese Yen	108.15	109.25
European Curreny Unti	1.1198**	1.1060

USD Per STG

Eurocurrency Interest Eates			Date: 4/2/1994		
Ситенсу	MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTH	
U.S. Dollar	3.18	3.43	5.56	3.93	
Sterling Pound	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	
Deutsche Mark	5.98	5.81	5.56	5.31	
Swiss Franc	4.12	4.00	3.87	3.68	
French Franc	6.40	6.28	6.00	5.65	
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.18	2.12	2.12	
European Currency Unit	6.44	6.28	6.06	5.65	

	Date: 5/2/1994		
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7050	0.7070	
Sterling Pound	1.0405	1.0457	
Deutsche Mark	0.3996	0.4016	
Swiss Franc	0.4776	0.4800	
French Franc	0.1181	0.1187	
Japanese Yen	0.6440	0.6472	
Dutch Guilder	0.3571	0.3589	
Swedish Krona	*****	+	
Italian Lira*	0.0415	0.0417	
Belgian Franc		*****	

Per 180 Other Carrencies	Date	u 5/2/1994	
Сигтепсу	Bid Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.8510	1.8660	
Lebanese Lira	0.040750	0.041860	
Sandi Riyal	0.1877	0.1885	
Kuwaki Dinar	2,3400	2.3800	
Qatari Riyal	0.1914	0.1923	
Egyptisu Pound	0.2050	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.5080	1.8240	
UAE Dirham	0.1914	0.1923	
Greek Drachma*	0.2765	0.3155	
Cypriot Pound	1.3325	1.3725	

#### Beirut for Washington Friday saying it would speed up loans for Lebanon in health, education and irrigation.

Lebanon in the three fields.
"We will send a detailed

Faisal Al Khaled rold repor-

rived in Beirut Tuesday. successful. We examined the

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Khaled said at Beirut Airport. Other World Bank teams would visit Lebanon soon, he

Angel Torres, another team member, told reporters they were impressed by Lebanon's energy to rebuild after the 1975-90 civil war. A second World Bank de-

financial sector. An International Monetary Fund team is also spending two weeks in the country studying ways of offering technical assistance to the public finan-

Mr. Hariri told parliament last month that Lebanon has already secured \$1.5 billion in loans which have helped start the rebuilding of its infrastructure destroyed by 15 years of civil war.

cial sector.

In his address the billionaire prime minister said agreements in principle for an additional

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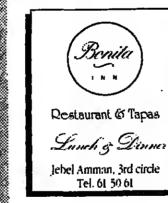
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# Pyongyang warns U.S. would lose another Korean war

Korea warned the United States Saturday that it would be humbled and defeated if it started another Korean war.

An analysis carried on the official North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo. said the United States was readying itself for war "under the guise of aiming for peace on the Korean peninsula.

"With the insidious intention to unleash a new war in Korea. United States is stepping up its arms buildup in and around South Korea and engaging itself in military espionage, watching for a chance of a surprise strike at the DPRK."

the KCNA commentary said. The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) is the official name of the North

"Military moves and anti-DPRK rows of the U.S. warthirsty quarters have become all the more undisguised entering the new year." it added. The United States, it said. would "suffer a more tragic

past Korean War in which it was humbled and bruised all Last month, the Communist state reacted angrily to a U.S.-South Korean plan to deploy Patriot air-defence missiles in

and grave defeat than in the

the South to boister Seoul's defences. Pyongyang has also strident-ly objected 10 joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises on

the peninsula. North Korea has been under

Minister's

remarks on

foreigners

embarrass

LONDON (R) — A British

minister's comments that other

countries are corrupt bave

caused instant offence, despite

a swift retraction, and embar-

rassed Prime Minister John

Major just when be thought he

had his party under control.

Michael Portillo, chief secret-

ary to the treasury, spent hours in interviews on Friday saying

he had not meant what he said.

.But Saturday newspapers

latched on to the remarks as

the latest in a string of blunders

including adulterous affairs

and questionable financial

deals that bave battered the

"Foreigners are corrupt -

Mr. Portillo, the son of a

Spanish Republican who fled

to Britain, used school-leavers'

"A level" examinations as an

"If any of you have got an

example for his student audi-

A-level it is because you have

worked to get it," he said. "Go

to any other country and when

you have got an A-level you

"When you go into business

you will win contracts because

you are good at what you do,"

be added. "Go to a number of

other countries and you would

win contracts because your

cousin was a minister or be-

cause you have lined the pock-

The opposition Labour Par-

ty called on him to resign. One

parliamentarian said, "thank

God he's not foreign secret-

Mr. Portillo swiftly took

back his remarks, saying be

had mistakenly gone too far.

"I didn't say Britain was the

only bonest country in

the world but I did say more

than I had intended because I

was speaking off the cuff," he

tries... I made an exaggera-

tion... Anyone can make an

error like that. I'm sorry if

the Times, calling the com-

ments a gaffe, quoted critics as

saying it showed Mr. Portillo, a

rising star on the right wing of

the ruling Conservative Party

often tipped as a future leader.

was not ripe for high office.

timing was unfortunate, com-

ing on a day when a poll

showed nearly two-thirds of

voters felt "the Conservatives

these days give the impression

of being very sleazy and dis-

·The blunder comes at the

end of a successful week for

Prime Minister John Major

when he bolstered his image by

acting tough towards Mr. Por-

tillo's right-wing allies

reputable."

Mr. Portillo admitted his

But the Daily Telegraph and

anyone was insulted by it."

"I didn't name any coun-

said on television news.

et of some public official."

government's image.

the left-wing Guardian.

ence of Britain's worth.

have bought it."

ary.

Hoping to limit the damage

-Major

intense international pressure to allow inspection of its nuclear facilities which the United States and its allies believe are aimed at weapons development. Pyongyang has said its

nuclear programme is

"No military pressure and strong arm can ever work on the Korean people," KCNA said. "Our people who know of the vulnerability of the United States better than anyone else and have the experience of fighting it for three years regard it not as a superpower but

as a bluffing paper tiger."

A U.S. led 16-nation force under the United Nations flag engaged 1roops from North Korea, and later China, during tine 1950-53 Korea War which most historians consider was started by the North's invasion

The war ended with a armislice which has left the divided peninsula the world's last remaining cold war flashpoins. North Korea angrily denied

Saturday a U.S. Slate Department report released this week charging it with violation of human rights. "This is a brazen interfer-

ence in the internal affairs of our country and an intolerable insult to the Socialist system of our style centering on the popular masses," the KCNA said. The U.S. report follows a similar report last October by

Amnesty International which said Pyongyang's Stalinist rulers tortured or executed thousands of people over the

past 30 years and detained tens

"These gross human rights violations continue today," the London-based Amnesty says in a bleak report on the secretive Asian state which describes itself as "paradise on earth". Saturday's KCNA despatch, monitored in Tokyo, went on:

"The DPRK government, which regards it as its immovable policy to value man and respect his rights, substantially provides genuine freedom and rights to all citizens and creditably ensures their abundant and happy life.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said Saturday "resolute steps" might have 10 be taken to settle the long-running dispute over North Korea's refusal to accept nuclear inspections.

"We can't rule out the possibility that we will be placed in an extreme situation in which resolute steps are taken to resolve North Korea's nuclear problem." Mr. Han 10ld a meeting of South Korean heads of foreign missions.

Mr. Han, however, said that Seoul would not give up efforts to resolve the row through dialogue even in the event the confrontation over the North's nuclear programme worsens.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to declare North Korea in breach of a nuclear safeguards pact later this month unless Pyongyang agrees to open up suspect nuclear sites to inspection, South Korean officials said.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog

would have no alternative but to pass the issue on to the Security Council for punitive steps against the North, including economic sanctions, they

Mr. Han plans to visit Washington from Feb. 16 to 19 during which he will meet President Bill Clinton and Secretary of States Warren Christopher to coordinate joint measures to tackle the North's nuclear issue, a ministry spokesman said.

Vice South Korean Foreign Minister Hong Soon-Young told reporters Saturday: "The door will be always open to dialogue even if sanctions (against the North) are im-

"Concerns among IAEA's governors are mounting over the North's refusal to accept both special and regular inspections," The South Korean envoy to IAEA, Lee See-Young, told reporters in Seoul. If the North's hardline nuc-

lear stance remains unchanged by Feb. 21, the agency's director general, Hans Blix, will tell the Security Council that the agency is no longer able to ensure nuclear materials declared by Pyongyang are being used solely for peaceful pur-poses, Mr. Lee said.

With less than three weeks to go before the IAEA must issue a report to its board of

North Korea said Friday there was "no immediate prospect" of letting the IAEA conduct unconditional inspections of its nuclear sites.

African National Congress President Nelsoo Mandela holds a baby as he walks to an election rally in Paarl, South Africa (AFP photo)

## Mandela: Rightwingers are playing with fire

ODENDAALSRUS, South Africa (Agencies) — ANC leader Nelson Mandela Saturday told South African white rightwingers they were playing with fire by committing acts of violence in the run-up to elections in April.

"Innocent people, both black and white, are going to die as a result of what Ferdie Hartzenberg, General Constand Viljoen are doing, Mr. Mandela told about 200 nurses and doctors at Thabong Hos-

Mr. Hartzenberg leads the pro-apartheid Conservative Party and Gen. Viljoen heads the rightwing alliance Afrikaner Volksfront,

"We are trying very hard to dampen this violence, to appeal to all reasonable South Africans: Let us save our country," Mr. Mandela said.

Mr. Mandela, on the second day of a campaign visit to the Orange Free State maize and mining belt, said the African National Congress (ANC) had already gone through a war and would not wish anything

like that to happen again. "We want to make peace in this country. Peace with Afrikaner leaders to form a new South Africa. We must work out the solution together," Mr. Mandela said.

The white right, in alliance with black conservatives, are threatening to boycott the his-

ned a red rose to Mr. Mandela's shirt. Hospital sister Marieta Clark, an Afrikaner, said she was very excited at meeting Mr. Mandela and "everybody in the hospital felt that

cries of "amandla" (power) and "yes, yes," when he made points people agreed with. which was most of the time.

Before speaking, Mr. Mandela was mobbed by crowds of supporters in Kutlwanong township, where he told people that free education for primary school pupils would be the top priority of the government of national unity emerging after the elections.

Mr. Mandela addressed the crowd from the back of a pickup surrounded by thousands standing in a sea of mud.

He reached down to shake an old man's hand, prompting those at the back of the crowd to surge forward. Security men had to force them back.

One woman who managed to grab his arm told those around her that she was not going to wash her hand for six

Placards carried by the crowds proclaimed: "one president one Mandela," "Houses for all" and "welcome people's president."

Teacher Mathapelo Seekane, 25, said that she and most of her colleagues would vote for Mr. Mandela in the

election. "We think he is brilliant,"

she said. Mr. Mandela Friday accused President F.W. De Klerk of cowardice and paralysis in the face of threats and bombings by white extremists.

On the first day of a threeday campaign trip to the Orange Free State, a stronghold of right-wingers who have vowed to fight probable black rule after the country's first multiracial elections in April, Mr. Mandela said Mr. De Klerk and the governing National Party remained silent about increased right-wing vio-

## Shell kills at least 36 in worst **Bosnian** atrocity

SARAJEVO (R) — A shell slammed into Sarajevo's main open air market Saturday, killing at least 36 people and wounding dozens in the single atrocity of Bosnia's 22-month civil war.

Doctors said mangled corpses were still arriving at hospitals and morgues and the death toll was expected to continue rising.

The flood of wounded men. women and children overwbelmed medical teams at hospitals where the wounded lay moaning on corridor floors.

Many survivors were carried in blankets aboard commandeered private cars. The dead were brought on the back of The shell hit a table in the

middle of the crowded market in Sarajevo's battered old 10wn at around 1130 GMT. The dead and wounded were strewn in pools of blood among the aisles between the stalls of meagre produce.

Some people were literally tom apart," one eyewitness said. "Heads and limbs were ripped off bodies.

It happened a day after besieging Serbs, who have been hammering Sarajevo with artillery and mortar fire all week. killed nine Muslims queuing for food aid in the Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinje.

General Sir Michael Rose the commander of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, Saturday brushed aside Bosnian Serb denials that they were responsible for the Dorbrinje slaughter.

"The analysis of the craters indicates with certainty that the mortars were fired from Bosnian Serb positions," Gen. Rose said in a statement made in French.

"I don't accept the Serb denial, firing into such a populated area is unacceptable. Those responsible must be confronted with their criminal

actions. The Bosnian Serb army and Nikola Koljevic, vice president of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic had elaimed the

Dobrinje attack was carried out by the Muslims themselves to curry world sympathy. Reports by U.N. Military Observers (UNMOS) have shown that almost all the shelling in Sarajevo this week has

been carried out by Serb forces besieging the Bosnian capital. U.N. spokesman Major Jose Labandeira told reporters the Serb poured 200 artillery rounds on Sarajevo Friday alone. UNMOS did not see any return artillery fire by government forces.

Previous shelling incidents in Sarajevo have inflicted beavy death tolls but none so high as

The killing in a mortar attack of 16 people in what became known as the bread queue massacre in May 1992 helped convince the United Nations to impose sanctions on Serb-led Yugoslavia.

#### **Demi Moore gives** birth to 3rd child, a daughter

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PETE SETVES

LOS ANGELES (R) — Demi Moore bas given birth to her ent identification identification identification third daughter, a spokeswoman for the actress and her actor-husband Bruce Willis said Friday. The baby, which was born Thursday, was named Tallulah Belle. The couple's other children are Rumer, 5, and Scont, 2. "Both mother and baby are doing fantastic," the spokeswoman's statement said.

#### Argentine judge shuts down bogus hair-loss clinics

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - A former machinist wbo hired unemployed steelworkers and founded two hair-loss clinics was forced out of business Friday by an Argentine judge for posing as a doctor. The judge said the Buenos Aires entrepreneur was also using medication that had not been authorised by the government.

#### Man jailed for defacing Jackson's star

LOS ANGELES (R) - A man who said he spray-painted Michael Jackson's star on the Hollywood walk of fame because he hated "child molesters" pleaded no-contest to a vandalism charge and was sentenced to 100 days in jail. Jose Gomez, 33, was arrested Tuesday after a passer-by witnessed him spraying the singer's star — a bronze plaque embedded in the sidewalk — with flourescent orange paint. The witness, Edward Lees, chased Mr. Gomez, caught him and turned him over to police. At a court hearing, deputy city attorney Bill Sterling said Mr. Gomez told investigators: "I sprayed his star because I bate child molesters. I hate Michael Jackson because he molests little kids." The incident occurred a week after Jackson reached a settlement with a 14-year-old boy who accused him of sexual molestation, agreeing to pay the child millions of dollars. Jackson's attorneys said the settlement was not an admission of guilt and continued to maintain his innocence. The 35-year-old entertainer is still under investigation by pro-secutors in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara County, the site of his Neverland ranch.

### Cold snap saves 6-day-old finger

BELJING (R) - Chinese doctors have successfully reattached a worker's finger six days after it was severed thanks to a "medical miracle" made possible by extremely cold weather, the official China Daily said Saturday. The man was unable to seek treatment from a local air force hospital until almost a week after his accident because of poor transportation, the newspaper said. "However, be was" wise enough to put the cut finger in a plastic bag and store it outdoors, where the temperature was 20 degrees below zero," the newspaper said.

#### Celebrities strip for 'safe sex'

NEW YORK (R) — Of all the fund-raising campaigns to promote safe sex. Playboy has come up with a unique one, in which celebrities take off their clothes to help fight AIDS. The pictorial in the upcoming March issue, includes erote photos of actresses Sonia Braga, Mariel Hemingway, Sandra Bernhard and Shannen Doherty. the only one featured in colour. The stars are quoted discussing the virtues of safe sex and condoms. Bernhard says. "there's nothing I enjoy more than buying condoms; The pictures are to be included in two large books and a series of auctions in the United States and Europe.

#### Kerrigan-Harding photo goes on block

NEW YORK (R) — For someone wishing to own a part of what is certain to become television movie history. Christicis said it is planning to auction a picture of Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding, signed by both skaters. Christie's said the picture is expected to go for a modest \$800 to \$1,000. The picture also includes 1992 Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi, who also signed it. Christie's notes that the two skaters have been getting international headlines since the Jan. 6 attack on Kerrigan. Harding's ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, has been charged in planning the attack.

## Cambodian leaders cheer troops on base capture

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) -The Cambodian co-premiers congratulated government forces Saturday for the successful capture of a major rebel Khmer Rouge base in northwest Cambodia. Prince Norodom Ranariddh

and Hun Sen congratulated the troops for seizing the Khmer Rouge's logistics' and residential base at Anlong Veng, near the Thai border, in Siem Reap

Anlong Veng was the radical faction's headquarters for all guerrilla operations in North and central Cambodia. "The capture of Anlong

Veng cuts off the main supplies of the Khmer Rouge group who have created disturbances. Insecurity and provoked turmoil," the co-premiers said a statement.

Prince Ranariddh said earlier that government troops had almost total control of the Portillo," ran the headline in

base and surrounding area. The prince did not give casualty figures. But Mr. Hun Sen said Thursday a threepronged troop movement had reached the Khmer Rouge base, with 10 soldiers killed and more than 10 wounded. most of them by mines.

But another government source privately admitted that mines had taken a "heavy toll," both during the troop build-up in the area over the past weeks and during the actual advance itself.

A Khmer Rouge official in Phnom Penh, who demanded anonymity, said he had received a fax Saturday afternoon from the base saying it had come under heavy fire but

LONDON (R) - A naked

man was arrested on the roof

of Queen Elizabeth's Bucking-

ham Palace Saturday after

landing a motorised paraglider

m one of the most bizarre

breaches of royal security to

The man, who has not been

identified, was first spotted

over Blackfriars Bridge span-

ning the River Thames in cen-

tral London and police tracked

his progress as he flew over the

West End theatreland and up

the Mall towards the palace,

where he circled before

Once he had landed just

after daybreak the man, whose

motive is not yet known, threw

off bis paragliding equipment

and took off all his clothes.

Within minutes he had been

arrested by police officers who

took him to Charing Cross

"Security had been alerted,"

a spokesman at Buckingham

Palace said. "He took off his

clothes and was arrested with-

out a struggle... there was a

reduced security risk as no

member of the royal family

One official said the queen's

corgis, which were being exer-

was in residence at the time."

touching down.

Police Station.

date.

had not been captured. If it had been seized that morning, as the government claimed, the official said there would have been no one left to send the

Prince Ranariddh maintained, however, that the only task left for government troops at Anlong Veng was to repair a bridge leading into it so tanks could fortify the base to maintain permanent control over

The Khmer Rouge official said before Prince Ranariddh's announcement that it did not matter if the guerrilla group lost Anlong Veng.

"We have been fighting for I5 years," he said. "Sometimes they defeat us and we defeat them."

Prince Ranariddh said soldiers met little resistance in the attack on the base, adding that its commander, notoriously tough Khmer Rouge Gen. Ta Mok, had fled Anlong Veng

several days ago. The Khmer Rouge official in Phnom Penh, however, in-sisted that Ta Mok had not abandoned the base, which is just 10 kilometres from the Thai border.

Thailand, a longtime supporter of the Khmer Rouge. did not appear to be helping the guerrilla group in this latest attack, Prince Ranariddh said. noting that reports from the battlefield indicated it was not even providing ambulances for

wounded guerrillas. Prince Ranariddh said the Khmer Rouge had left the government no alternative but to attack Anlong Veng.

man had undertaken the stunt

in freezing cold weather for a

bet, a protest or as a prank for

there for about five minutes

and raised bis arms in a sort of

victory salute. It's quite possi-

ble he was doing it for a bet,"

said one eyewitness, who re-

ported that at one point the

Foreign tourists waiting to

watch the famous changing of

the guard ceremony were

mostly amused. "The weirdies

are all over." was the verdict of

retired accountant Thomas

Ford, 66, from Daytona Beach, Florida.

Britain's racy tabloid news-

papers, always eager to get

pictures of such bizarre ex-

ploits were desperately trying

to find out if the man had

organised for his feat to be

Another man grabbed the

media spotlight in a similar

way on Nov. 6 last year in Las

Vegas when he dropped onto a

boxing ring in a world

heavyweight title fight.

photographed by a friend.

interloper shouted abuse at the

police.

"He managed to stay up

the tabloid newspapers.

## Firebomb causes Belfast

BELFAST (Agencies) - An incendiary device exploded at large store in the centre of Belfast early Saturday, causing a fire that was later exting-uished, local police said.

bomb had been placed in Woolworth's in the Cornmar-

uished by emergency services. Police said the fire had been restricted to the first floor, wпеге анпоц system had been effective it

other stores in the city centre had been asked to check their premises for incendiary de-

work of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), against commercial premises throughout the province that began two days

in the province.

A spokesman said a fire-

had left considerable water

The firebomb attack is the latest in a concerted campaign, thought by police to be the

after Christmas.

A spokesman said owners of

march in protest at what they

said was Pakistan's covert sup-

port for Muslim separatists in

All Pakistani goverument

departments, commercial

banks, private businesses, mar-kets and shops and even res-

taurants were closed, and the

day was declared a public holi-

Public transport was also off

the road throughout the coun-

try and a complete strike was

also being observed in the

Pakistan-controlled northern

third of the divided Kashmir

"Nothing can stop the Kash-

mir's from gaining their right to self-determination," Pakis-

tani Prime Minister Benazir

"Let there be no doubt or

mistake that Pakistan will con-

tinue to lend its firm moral.

diplomatic and political sup-

Rallies were planned later in

the day at different places by

both ruling and opposition par-

ties to express support for the

Kasbmiri movement, in a dis-

port to the Kashmir cause.

she said

Bhutto said in a message.

state, officials said.

Indian-ruled Kashmir.

# store blaze

ket causing fire to break out at about 12:30 a.m. (0030 GMT). The blaze was later exting-

Britain's top official in Northern Ireland said Friday Sinn Fein has "a very few weeks" to respond to the British-Irisb framework for peace

#### toric elections unless their demands for separate homelands are met. At the hospital, a nurse pin-

Mr. Mandela's speech in the hospital was punctuated with

# Pakistan observes strike in solidarity with Kashmiris

plebiscite to enable Kashmir to

two countries. India, which holds the southern two-thirds of Kashmir, says the partition of the subcontinent in 1947 was final and the U.N. resolutions are no longer relevant.

choose union with either of the

More than 8,000 people have been killed in India's only Muslim-majority state since 1989 in violence linked to a militant separatist campaign that India has been trying to auell.

In India, meanwhile, thousands of activists from the ruling Congress (I) Party ben marching to the India-Pakistan border at Attari to protest Islamabad's alleged support for the separatists. Large groups of men and

women began to walk from the Sikh holy city of Amritsar nearly 30 kilometres (18 miles) from Attari, waving buge Indian flags and shouting slogans denouncing Pakistan, witnesses said.

Hundreds of others were packed in buses and trucks which moved slowly along with the marchers. The organisers

campaign. A loudhailer near the border, sealed and guarded by hundreds of Indian Border Guards, blared patriotic songs. A police officer said the mar-

Indian security forces put up steel barricades and coiled barbed wire about 180 metres from the frontier to stop the members of the Youth Con-

"At no cost will anyone be allowed to go up to the gate," said B. Shukla, a superintendent of police in the northern state of Punjab, where Attari is located.

But Maninder Singh Bitta, a Sikh who heads the Youth Congress, warned in Amritsar that the marchers would smash through the barricades "if the police do not cooperate." He did not elaborate.

says it only gives diplomatic support to the Kashmiri cam-

day. Indian Ambassador S.K. Lambah was summoned to the Foreign Office here late Friday to receive a note of complaint to be conveyed to bis govern-

ment, they said. Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma Thursday accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of "losing touch with reality" and ignoring the plight of her own people. Mrs. Bbutto has lost her

roots as well as touch with

reality and the culture of the

subcontinent," Mr. Sharma said during a speech in the northern Indian city of Jaipur. The Pakistani Foreign Office said in a statement that the personal attack is not only unwarranted, but it is also a violation of the norms related to civilised conduct between

sovereign states." Mr. Sharma's remarks were meant to "deflect attention from India's massive violations of human rights in Indian-

"deeply regrets" that the Indian president had chosen to associate himself with the "defamatory campaign," it said.

#### ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Life play of national unity over the came to a standstill across said the number of protestors Pakistan Saturday in a shut-Ms. Bhutto urged the interwas expected to swell to more Nude paraglider lands on than 50,000 by the time they down to demonstrate solidarity national community to get the Meanwhile, Pakistan has with Muslim Kashmiris cam-U.N. resolutions on Kashmir reached the fortified border. strongly protested what it calpaigning against Indian rule in led a personal attack against its implemented. Buckingham Palace roof Banners and hand-written prime minister by the Indian president, officials said Saturtheir part of the disputed replacards carried by the mar-The resolutions, adopted in gion. chers. a vast majority of them 1948 and 1949 following the cised, watched the man's ex-On the other side of the Sikbs, accused Pakistan of first war between Pakistan and ploit with bewilderment. border, meanwhile, thousands backing the violent separatist India over Kashmir, call for a It was not clear wether the of Indians began to stage a

chers would not be allowed to breach a gate which divides India and Pakistan.

gress from crossing over to

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming and training Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir. Pakistan denies the charge and

held Kashmir," the statement The government of Pakistan

Man 4:30.

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## Schneider takes slalom with supreme second leg

SIERRA NEVADA, Spain (R) — Switzerland's Vreni Schneider showed her class with a blistering second leg to win a women's slalom Satur-

Showing brilliant control down a Steep and difficult course, she finished almost a second and a half ahead of her nearest rival. Sweden's Pernil-

"This was one of the best races of my career," said a delighted Schneider, celebrating her 49th World Cup vic-

Schneider, who was visibly upset this week by the death of her friend Ulrike Maier in last Saturday's downhill in Germany, had turned in a modest first leg performance, 1.93 seconds and in 11th place behind surprise leader Roberta Serra of Italy.

But she charged down the second leg in just 48.88 seconds, well ahead of the next fastest time of 50.38 turned in

"I think I had too much respect for the course in the first leg, it looked like it was difficult," said Schneider.

"But when I saw how much faster the others had gone I was sure I could make up the difference on the second leg."

Schneider, 29, did a combined time of one minute 41.30 seconds, to Wiberg's 1:42.66 and 1:42.70 by Deborah Compagnon of Italy.

Wiberg stays top of the over-all standings on 1,209 points after claiming victory in the combined event following her 10th place finish in Wednesday's downhill here. Schneider, second in the combined, is

with a super-G event. The Italians had looked like dominating Saturday's race after the first lcg, with Compagnoni well poised with a joint

Scrra, ranked only 17th in the slalom standings before Saturday, had shaken the favourites with a courageous first leg that left her almost a second ahead of ber nearest

# Gustafsson beats Volkov,

The fourth-seeded Swede

practising mediation for two mand right from the start and Volkov HAD no answer to his powerful serves and cross court

"I feel full of energy these days and mediation twice a day for 20 minutes helps me concentrate much better," Gustafsson, ranked twelfth in the

"I kept attacking his backhand and that tactic forced him to make unforced errors, For Volkov it was one of those days when he just failed to lift





Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria raises her arms at the finish line of won in 4:30.01 (AFP photo)

## GOREN BRIDGE

East-West vulnerable. South deals. • A 8 6 5 ♥ Q J 10 9 4 • 6 4 • J 5 

The bidding:
South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 Pass

2 Pass

Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of Here's another example of how a shrewd declarer can benefit from the defenders' inability to see each other's holdings. Only an expert in the West chair would have swallowed the bait.

North's jump to four hearts was,

North's jump to four hearts was, perhape, a little aggressive. However, even though South had a minimum 18 points, the contract depended on no more than a finesse.

Y

on 1,190 points. Action resumes on Sunday

second fastest time.

# meets Bruguera in final

DUBAI (R) — Magnus Gustafsson, bis concentration enhanced by transcendental mediation, blasted Alexander Volkov aside 6-2, 6-2 to reach the final of the \$1 million Dubai Open Saturday.

will meet number one seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain, who won the other semifinal 6-2, 6-1 against South African Wayne Ferreira, in Sunday's

Gustafsson, who has been months, was in complete com-

He broke the Russian in the opening game, then again for a 3-1 lead, going on to take the first set 6-2 when Volkov failed to capitalise on four break points while trailing 2-5.





the women's Mile at the Millrose Games on Friday. Boulmerka

WHO'S GOT WHAT?

West led the king of spedes and declarer took time out to see if there was anything he could do to avoid defeat, if the diamond finesse were to lose. The only chance was to try to convince the defenders they did not have two club tricks coming to

South found an ingenious method to lead the defense astray. To give the plan the maximum chance of success, declarer decided to put it into operation immediately, before the defenders had the chance to signal each other. So declarer shot up with dummy's ace of spades and, at trick two, led a low chib to the queen, losing to West's king.

Consider West's predicament. It looked to all the world as if declarer had taken a finesse. West gave declarer the A K of hearts and A Q of clubs, so it seemed the only hope for the defense was that declarer's diamond holding did not include the ace. Unless the diamond tricks were collected immediately, however, declarer was now in position to discard one of dummy's losers on the ace of chibs. To prevent that, West found the elegant shift to the king of diamonds! Expertly reasoned, but the patient died.

## Hiding Maradona barred from leaving Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) - Soccer star Diego Maradona, in hiding after firing an air rifle at reporters, was barred from leaving Argentina until the courts rule on charges filed by his victims, a judge has said. "He cannot leave the coun-

try," Judge Francisco Lilo, in charge of the case, told Reuters. "He must settle his judicial situation first."

The diminutive captaio of Argentina's national side and his family fled their country home in a pick-up truck under cover of darkness early Thursday, escaping a siege by a press corps at war with him over the air gun shots. His lawyers would not say

where he was but assured reporters that he would show up for questioning when needed. Judge Lilo said he had sum-

moned Maradona to appear Tuesday before his court in Mercedes, 40 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires. Maradona, 33, lost his temper and started firing pellets from an air gun at journalists

standing at the wrought-iron gates of his country home this week after he was sacked by his club, Newell's Old Boys, for repeatedly missing practice Police raided his five-acre residence after the incident but

ly in television footage from the scene. The attack earned Maradona his second fingerprinting since he was briefly held on drug charges following a raid

found no trace of the gun,

which had been seen repeated-

station are sprayed with water Wednesday at the home of soccer star Diego Maradona. Journalists who were hoping to interview Maradona after be quit his club said that the Argentine soccer star and five other men fired at them with air-powered pellet guns (AFP photo) for 15 months by F1FA, world on a Buenos Aircs apartment

A cameraman and reporter from a Buenos Aires television

The main Buenos Aires dailies have described Maradona as virtually deranged and Argentina's most influential journalist, Bernardo Neustadt, has warned him that he will not get off lightly after taking on the local press.

Judge Lilo said Maradona, who threatened at one point to switch from the air gun to real bullets, would not be arrested because the charges — bodily hard and minor injuries carry a maximum two-year prison sentence which is not usually enforceable.

Maradona's career has been in decline since the 1990 World Cup in Italy, He failed a routine dope test for cocaine while playing for Napoli in March 1991 and was banned

soccer's governing body. He returned to Argentina, declared he had retired and

entered a treatment program-He came out of retirement in Spain with Sevilla last season but was sacked in June and returned again to Argentina.

After a four-month break followed by an intense slimming and fitness programme. Maradona signed with Newell's Old Boys in October. then inspired Argentina to victory over Australia in a critical World Cup playoff.

Maradona said before his

clash with reporters that he planned to continue playing despite having been fired, and looked forward to the World Cup in the United States later

#### IOC says let Harding skate suspend Harding's USFSA keep Harding on the team, said Pound, who sits on the 11-member IOC executive

"Unless you have got com-

pelling evidence, such as a

confession or a conviction, you

don't bave a basis on which to

overturn the results," of the

U.S. Figure Skating cham-pionships. "It would be very

risky in terms of (denying) due

process, and all of those other

things (Americans) hold dear.

A five-member USFSA

panel, along with a Portland

sheriff's deputy, a Portland

Claire Ferguson, who may take

action against Harding - call

for a disciplinary hearing or

wanted to put winter sports on

a different cycle to the summer

The environment-friendly

Norwegians, who fine them-

selves whenever they cut down

a fir tree too many, expect to

lose money as anticipated re-

venues are substantially lower

than forecast costs of seven

billion kroner (\$959 million).

will lose but they see it as a

worthwhile investment in im-

proving train services, laying new telephone lines, building

new stadia and attracting more

The tourist slogan describes

Norway as Europe's best-kept secret and Lillehammer, the

world's only town with a skier

on its coat of arms, aims to

strip away the veil of secrecy

for as many foreigners as possi-

At least the Norwegians have been frank about the ex-

pected losses. French tax-

payers were left with a 280

million franc (\$48 million) bill

after the Albertville Games

which the organisers had in-

sisted would pay for them-

tourists.

FURNISHED FLOOR FOR RENT

Furnished ground floor with two sitting areas, two

bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, large terrace,

separate entrance, garden, phone and car garage.

Localed between the first and second circles in Jabal

It is not clear how much they

Norwegians to reveal Europe's best-kept secret

COLORADO SPRINGS. Colo. (AP) - The U.S. Figure Skating Association was expected to decide late Saturday if it will recommend a disciplinary hearing for Tonya Harding for her alleged role in the attack on Olympic rival Nancy Kerrigan.

But the embattled Harding, who has not been charged in the attack. Friday received a boost from a prominent member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) who is already in Lillehammer, Norway, for the start of the winter games next Saturday.

Richard Pound of Canada, a member of the IOC, said Harding should be allowed to planning the assault.

compete in Norway unless she is convinced by a U.S. court of conspiring to attack Nancy Kerrigan or confesses a role in In fact, the USOC "doesn't have much of a choice" but to

LILLEHAMMER (AFP) --

Seventy years after the first

winter games were staged in Chamonix, the 17tb Winter

Olympics will start in one week

in this small Norwegian town.

Sofia when the games awarded

International Olympic Com-

mittee (IOC) President Juan-

Antonio Samaranch was sup-

posed to have promised Sofia

the games as a reward for East

Bloc countries going to Seoul's

summer Olympics for the first

boycott-free games since 1972. But the Bulgarians pushed

too hard and the polite, friend-

ly Norwegians, who were mak-

ing their second bid, were seen

as the ideal compromise to

The Alaskans had money

but no tradition. The Swedes

were unable to convince IOC

members they could shuttle the

Olympic cast between Oster-

sund and are without a hitch.

Lillehammer is staging the

games only two years after

Albertville, France, because

the IOC - and the television

company accountants -

Anchorage and Ostersund.

Yet the smart money was on

attorney who gathered evidence for the USFSA, and several others, met here for 51/2 hours to pore over affidavits FBI tepons and additional documents. That judgement will be passed along to USFSA President

membership — or simply in-form the USOC and let it make its own decision. It is unclear whether a sus-

pension of Harding, pending the completion of the appeal process, would be enough to keep her off the team. Harding and her attorneys snubbed a request by the panel

to appear Friday. Harding has not been charged with any crime in a case that has already brought a guilty plea from her exhusband and the arrests of

three other men. Anita Defrantz, the lone U.S. member on the IOC, said the group probably would not seek to bar Harding from the Olympics.
"The IOC has the final au-

thority during the games so if it (the Harding controversy) continues, that's a possibility, but I think that's very unlikely," she

winter sports athletes.

organisation to 195.

Alberville, because competi-

tions were held in so many

scattered sites, with all events

within a 58-kilometre radius,

hopes to capture the Olympic

call the above-mentioned number

## in final of Pan Pacific Open physically I'm definitely fit for it, don't worry," said Graf, who with a win will balance the

Graf to face Navratilova

TOKYO (R) — Top seeds Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova cruised to straight-set wins Saturday to set up a showdown in the final of the \$750,000 Toray Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament in Tokyo.

World number one Graf of Germany, fresh from victory in last week's Australian Open, wasted little time and effort in brushing aside unseeded Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-2 in 55 minutes.

The second-seeded Navratilova of the United States inched a step closer to retaining her title and clinching her first tournament of her final season by outsmarting sixth seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland 6-2, 6-3.

Graf will be looking to avenge her loss to Navratilova in last year's semi-final on the fast carpet surface at the Tokyo metropolitan gymnasium.

"It's a surface that suits us both, so we'll see who's going to be better tomorrow. But

scales to nine wins apiece with Navratilova.

Defending champion Navratilova said she would olay a careful game against the seed otherwise "I'll get blown off the court.' Graf, a two-time winner

here, was barely stretched by

Boogert, ranked 90th in the world. She served and returned superbly to deny Boogert her only break point in the last game of the final set. "She didn't have much chance to return my serve and I responded very well on her

serve. So I was very satisfied,"

the 24-year-old German said. Navraulova was in devastating form during her lopsided match of contrasting styles. The American unleashed her penetrating serve laced with topspin and constantly stormed to the net, while the Bulgarianborn Maleeva-Fragniere hugged the baseline and desper-

Navration appearing in mament since in the second New York Virgircuni c in November. nia SI mercy to Malesyashore ha will retire from Frank tennis next week's Asia

oke Maldeva-Fragnie - in the first, third and seventh sames of the first set and the seventh game of the final ser, while losing only one service game.

With the win. Navratilova now has a 12-3 career record over Maleeva-Fragniere - and got revenge for a loss in the final of last year's European Indoors in Zurich.

"She played one of lier best matches against me. I needed just a little opportunity to get back into the match, but she didn't give it to me," said Maleeva-Fragniere.

Navratilova, with her partner Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands, has also reached

## Chang, Reneberg struggle into semifinals of San Jose Open

ately tried to whip shots past

SAN JOSE, California (R) -Americans Michael Chang and Richey Reneberg, the top two seeds, struggled to three-set victories, before advancing to the semifinals of the \$288,750 San Jose Open men's tennis tournament late Friday.

Chang, the top seed and the world's ninth-ranked player, survived an upset bid by hardhitting Jean-Philippe Fleurian, before beating the unseeded Frenchman, 6-7 (6-8) 6-1 6-3 in two-hours, 53-minutes, Meanwhile, the second-seeded Reneberg, overcame an ailing shoulder, to rally past compatriot and rookie pro Brian Macphie, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

In other quarterfinal results. sixth-seed Renzo Furlan of Italy, outlasted American Jeff Tarango 1-6, 6-1, 7-5, and fifth-seed Karsten Braasch of Germany stopped American Bryan Shelton, 6-4, 6-4.

In the semifinals, Chang will play Braasch, while Reneberg facese Furlan.

"It was a pretty up-and-down match," said Chang, who served nine aces and one double fault. "I got off to thouht I had a pretty good chance to win in straight sets, when I went up 5-3.

"It seems whenever I was ahead, he just seemed to hit winners," added Chang, a two-time winner here, "It was a

No Palestinian delegation

at Winter Olympic Games

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (R) - Norwegian hopes that the

Palestinian flag would be shown for the first time at an

Olympics during the winter games starting Feb. 12 were

International Olympic Committee (IOC) Director General

François Carrard told a news conference he did not expect a

delegation from the Palesrinian Olympic Comminee, which

was granted provisional membership of the IOC last Septem-

"There are no Palestinian athletes involved to my know-

ledge so I don't think there will be a delegation as such," he

Lillehammer organisers said last December they hoped the Palestinians would send a token delegation and perhaps show

their flag at the opening ceremony even though they have no

IOC membership, bringing the total number of nations in the

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Carrard also said Cambodia had been granted provisional

little frustrating,
"In the third set, I kind of played in between I basically just waited for him to miss. He's a great player and today was just a grind, basically,"

After rallying from a 3-0 deficit, Chang wasted two set points at 5-3 and two more at At 6-6 in the tiebreaker,

Chang double-faulted and followed, by slamming a forehand service return long to drop the one-hour, 25-minute opener. Chang, regrouped in the next two sets, however. In the third, he built a 4-1 advantage

before Fleurian rallied. The 28-year Frenchman held a game point to leve! the match at 4-4. But Chang went up 5-3, when he ripped a forehand service return winner of his sixth break point, thus ending a grueling 16-point game, He

then served out the match. Reneberg dismissed the seriousness of the tendinitis in the rotator cuff.

"It hurts when I serve, but it's ok," he said. "I don't win that many points on my serve anyway," said the 30th-raoked

## Armenia agrees to Olympic truce but Bosnia doubtful

LILLEHAMMER (R) -Armenia has agreed to observe an Olympic truce from Saturday until after the Lillehammer Winter Olympic Games and to work to end the conflict over the dispute enclave of

Nagorno-Karabakh. the Inter-

national Olympic Committee (IOC) said. no word from Azerbaijan. which says Armenian troops are occupying parts of its territory as part of the battle for control of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Thousands of people have died in six years of fighting over the mountainous enclave which is inside Azerbaijan but populated mainly by ethnic Armenians.

Armenia, which backs the Karabakh Armenians, says it has no troops in Azerbaijan. Both countries are on the volanle southern rim of the former Soviet Union.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan informed IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch that Armenia would respect the Olympic truce from Saturday to March 6, a week after the Lillehammer games end, the IOC said. Russia has been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to broker a

> Jordan Times Tel.

The Olympic truce was proposed in a U.N. resolution last year and is supposed to apply to all conflict zones.
The IOC wrote to all bellige-

rents in all the world war zones urging them to observe the truce. In particular, the IOC has been keen to secure a ceasefire in Bosnia because the Winter Olympics were staged there in the capital Sarajevo a decade ago.

But despite a reminder from Samaranch a week ago; the Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims have yet to say whether they will respect the truce resolution. Fighting continued unabated in and around Sarajevo Saturday (see page 8).



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#### Iran interior minister gets bigger role

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's interior minister has been given greater powers over internal security. Iranian radio reported on Saturda. The radio said Iran's spiritual leader and armed forces com ... r Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had made the mmad Besharati, his deputy with responsiminister, Al. bility for poli. ne radio report, monitored by the British oration (BBC), quoted a decree by Ayatol-Broadcasting C .ying the move aimed "to give the interior rational power in establishing the people's ah Khamenei as minister greati security and w On Tuesday a man fired five shots while

sinemi Rafsanjani was giving a public President Akl speech in Tehra... ranian officials said it was a plot to kill Mr. Rafsanjani. The last two weeks also saw rioting and gun battles in the some easiern town of Zahedan between security personnel and ninority Sunni Muslims, according to local residents, as well as the killing of four bus passengers by

#### India test-fires surface-to-air missile

NEW DELHI (AP) — Ignoring pressure from Western countries to scrap its missile programme, India on Friday test fired its latest long-range surface-to-air missile, a news agency reported. The missile named Akash, the Hindi word for sky, was successfully fired at the Chandipur test range in the eastern coastal state of Orissa, the Defence Ministry said. The 650-kilogramme missile is fitted with multiple warheads, Press Trust of India news agency said quoting a Defence Ministry statement. The successful firing of Akash puts India's missile technology on par with the United States, Russia and France, United News of India news agency said. Akash is part of a \$285 million programme to develop medium-and long-range air defence and surface-to-surface ballistic missiles. India has been enhancing its military power through its missile programme, fueling concern among Western countries over its ability to conduct nuclear war against neighbouring Pakistan, which also has nuclear capability.

#### Brown's chief accuser cries 'coverup'

MIAMI (AP) — Commerce Secretary Ron Brown's chief accuser claimed Friday that grand jurors investigating the cabinet official were not allowed to vote on an indictment, and may not have seen his bank records. The Justice Department exonerated Mr. Brown this week of accusations he secretly accepted \$700,000 from the Vietnamese government to help lift the U.S. trade embargo. President Bill Clinton announced the end of the embargo Thursday. Binh T. Ly, a Vietnamese-American businessman who first went public with the bribery charge, and testified before the Miami grand jury, called Friday for Mr. Brown's resignation and appointment of a special prosecutor. "Without an independent counsel, the investigation was a mere formality for a coverup by the Clinton administration," Mr. Ly said. The decision to drop the Brown investigation was made by justice, not the grand jury, which never voted on an indictment, he claimed.

#### Lagos court orders arrest of anti-drugs agents

LAGOS (R) - A Nigerian court has ordered the arrest of nine anti-narcotics agents in connection with the disappearance of part of a major drug haul fom the agency, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), said. Judge Funmilayo Oni-Okpaku said the officials of the National Drug Law enforcement agency (NDLEA) must explain the loss of 12 of the 649 sachets of heroin allegedly imported into Nigeria by business-man Joe Brown Akubueze, NAN reported. Mr. Oni-Okpaku did not give the names of the officials in court. The court is trying Mr. Akubueze, who has pleaded not guilty to six charges including conspiracy to import the drugs. The government, which has declared a war on corruption, was embarrassed by the disappearance of the drugs while in the care of the NDLEA, formed in 1990 to combat drugs trafficking.

## 'Agents ready to sell phantom sub secrets'

STOCKHOLM (AP) — For more than a decade Sweden has been seeking proof of whether the Soviet - and now Russian - navy was sending submarines into Swedish coastal waters, and why. Swedish radio reported Friday that Russian intelligence officers are finally providing the answers - for cash. The radio quoted naval sources as saying Russian intelligence officers had sold information about a special submarine spying unit based at Primorsk, near the Russian naval base of Kalimingrad. The Swedish military has been told that the Primorsk unit uses the Swedish archipelago as its playground ot for training exercises, the radio report said. The Swedish military is taking the information seriously, said the report. There was no official government comment.

## Kuwait women used to bust arms hideouts

KUWAIT (R) - Women have joined a Kuwaiti police hunt for illegal weapons to prevent suspects using conservative traditions to foil raids, a newspaper reported on Saturday. Colonel Abdul Hameed Al Awadi, commander of a special force that hunts for the illicit guns from the Gulf war, said police bad often been kept waiting outside houses on the pretext of the men needing time to remove their women inside from public view, the English-language Arab Times reported. The men had used the time to hide their guns. "To overcome such difficulties the force decided to employ women to assist in searching houses, especially when females are involved," the newspaper quoted Mr. Awadi as saying.

## Palestinian police get Greek help

ATHENS (AFP) - The Palestinian police awaiting deployment in Jericho and Gaza under the autonomy accord will wear navy blue uniforms and drive trucks supplied by Greece. Palestinian officials said here. "We will take the navy blue uniforms, not the green ones which do not suit our future policemen." Mr. Abdullah Abdullah, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Athens, tidd AFP. He spoke after a PLO delegation on Thursday ended a one-week visit to Greece to consider offers of uniforms, trucks and old helicopters from the Greek army. "The trucks are useful. We do not need helicopters at this stage." he added. The Greek Defence Ministry said Greece would make the contribution to helo towards implementing the September accord which calls for limited Palestinian self-rule starting in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The PLO delegation - which included military officers, a pilot and an engineer — toured four bases to look at old Greek army equipment. "The Greek offer is very generous and we are grateful." Mr. Abdullah said. The Palestinians turned down six old U.S.-made Sioux CH-13 helicopters, and two 25-year-old Cessna U-17AB reconnaissance planes. Greek sources said that the PLO asked for more recent planes. Old bulldozers and British-type helmets were also turned

## Arab Maghreb Union postpones summit

TUNIS (R) - Five North African countries decided to postpone a summit of their leaders aimed at brosting the economic unification of their countries, an official statement said on Friday. The council of the Arab Maghreh Union (AMU) grouping leaders of Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Lihya and Mauritania was expected to be held at the end of this week in Tunisia, but officials said it was agreed to postpone it for a "short period." Said Ben Mustapha. Tunisian junior minister for foreign affairs, said after a two-day meeting of the AMU foreign ministers that the summit was postponed for "scheduling" reasons. He said Tunisian President Zine Al Ahidine Ben Ali and his colleagues would set a new date after further consultations. Diplomats said one of the reasons for the postponement was Mauritania's municinal elections



boy lies on the ground after he was killed in an attack on a mosque in Khartoum, Sudan, Friday (see story on page one). Reports of the death toll (AFP photo)

were involved, including foreigners, according to official statements from the Ministry of Interior

# Syria says Israel is stalling

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said no progress had been made at two weeks of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington and on Saturday accused the Jew-

ish state of stalling.

Syrian officials said Israel
was demanding higher-level
secret talks with Damascus while saying nothing about pulling out of the occupied Golan Heights.

The talks resumed on Jan. 24 after a four-month break and were adjourned on Thursday until Feb. 15. The U.S. State Department said this was after consultation with the parties, but Syrian officials said it was at Israel's request.

Negotiations involve the Jewish state, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

The break in the talks, which was made at Israel's request, illustrates more of Israel's manoeuvres," said one Syrian official, adding that the Arab delegations had decided to stay in Washington.

Syrian officials said no progress was made in the past two

"Either Israel submits to the will of the U.N. resolutions calling for its full withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands ont should bear the full responsibility of wasting a unique opportunity for peace." one Syrian official said.

The officials condemned Israel's approval on Thorsday to expand settlements in the Golan Heights and said the action "sbowed Israel did not want to make peace."

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said after talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva last month that Syria was ready for normal ties with Israel as part of a comprehensive peace settlement.

Syria demands Israel return the Golan Heights seized in the 1967 war. Israel has said it is prepared to withdraw at least in part but will not discuss how far until Damascus agrees to "full peace" including embassies, open borders and trade.

The Syrian officials said Israel was now demanding the two sides hold secret talks and upgrade the level of negotiations, now held at ambassadorial level.

"Israel resumed (talks) to play the tune of secret negotiations, as if what could be said in secret could not be said in public.

"It also demanded contacts at a higher level while not uttering any word about full withdrawal from the Golan," the Syrian official said.

He added: "A vivid example of the failure of secret talks is the outcome of the Oslo negotiations between the PLO and Israel as both parties were unable to implement their agreement on the ground."

Referring to Israel's approval to expand two settlements in the Golan and its call for a referendum on the fate of the area, he said:

"Israel bas reactivated its settlement policy in a clear provocation to Syria... it also started to market its intention to conduct a referendum on the Golan as if international law allows her to do so."

#### close Russian ties backs

MUNICH (Agencies) - The United States has led the faltering North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance out of a dangerous post-cold war drift, but the West must press ahead rapidly to cement ties with its former Soviet enemies, new U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Saturday.

"It's one thing to agree in principle and another thing to Mr. Perry said of last month's NATO summit agreement to offer a "Partnership for Peace" to Russia and other budding East European democracies which would stop short of alliance membership or security guarantees.

He spoke to reporters en route from Washington a day after be was sworn in to replace former Defence Minister Les Aspin. Mr. Perry flew to Munich to attend a two-day annual security meeting of European political leaders.

Mr. Perry said he would stress in a major address to the conference on Sunday that NATO must immediately begin doing "brick-by-brick" work to start joint military exercises and other links between the alliance and the East

He said he would call "for vigorous concrete actions by NATO to implement it, and implement it soon."

The Washington Post reported Saturday that the Clin-

BEIRUT (AP) - A teenager

accused of killing a woman and two of her children has been

executed after Shi'ite Muslim

clerics in eastern Lebanon con-

demned him in defiance of

The execution of 16-year-old

Hussem Assem Awadah was

revealed in a statement jointly

signed by the families of the victims and the alleged

The statement, published in

Beirut newspapers Saturday,

did not say when, where or

It was the first time since the

end of the 15-year civil war in

1990 that a suspect has been

tried and sentenced in accord-

ance with Islamic law outside

the authority of the central

It underscored the influence

of Muslim fundamentalists,

spearheaded by the Iranian-

backed Hizbollah, wield in east

Lebanon, where government

how Awadah was executed.

state authority.

murderer.

government.

ton administration is shifting attention from Russia's domestic problems to its troubled relations with neighbouring · states.

Quoting senior officials it did not identify, the paper said tht President Clinton, in a meeting Monday with top foreign policy advisers, discussed the need to persuade Russia to withdrew troops from countries where governments reject their presence.

Those countries include Estoma, Latvia, and former Soviet republics to the south. according to the Post.

The paper said that the president and his advisers reached what one official called a "firm consensus" to support Ukraine's efforts to boost a sagging economy and end a dispute with Russia over Ukraine's possession of Sovietera nuclear arms.

Mr. Clinton has decided 10 double the proposed aid to Ukraine from \$150 million announced during the president's stop in Kiev last month to more than \$300 million, the newspaper said.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl warned Russians Saturday not to adopt an imperialist policy, saying they must foster trust among their neighbours witbout thought of creating spheres of inflnence or in-

But Mr. Kohl said tbt NATO must take seriously

Maha Laqqis Younes and

two sons under six - Moham-

mad and Ali — were killed

Sunday during a robbery at

their home in Baalbek, an

ancient Roman city that has

served as a Hizbollah stron-

ghold since the civil war days.

car to escape and take refuge

with his family.

The suspect used the victim's

Mrs. Younes' relatives of the

Nasreddine and Laggis clans

held the Awadahs responsible

for the murder, and vowed

a tribal war in Baalbek, 80

kilometres east of Beirut.

Hizbollah stepped in to avert

Hizbollah-affiliated clerics

found Awadah "acted alone

with the motive of premedi-

tated theft and killing." the

Laggis, Nasreddine and Awa-

"We the three families have

dah families said in their state-

punished the criminal Hussein

According to Sharia, a cri-

Assem Awadah." it said.

Russian fears of encirclement and isolation.

"Therefore NATO seeks to develop security cooperation with Russia and Ukraine, leading to a new relationship, a real and stable partnership," he told the opening of conference of some 200 Western defence and security specialists.

"In return, however, we expect Russia to continue a foreign policy marked by constructive participation in solving international problems," Mr. Kohl said.

The European guidelines established since the conclusion of the Helsinki Final Act, especially unqualified respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, must be adhered to unequivo-

"Above all Russia must foster trust, particularly among its neighbours, through its own action, thoughts of creating spheres of influence or interest would not be compatible with this," the chancellor told the 31st conference on security policy in Munich. The leader of Russia's com-

munists said Friday that the recent cabinet shuffline did not unseat enough reformers and that more must go if the country is to avoid collapse.

Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Russian Communist Party, said the government has not abandoned "shock therapy," despite last month's shakeup.

minal should be punished or

pardoned and the decision

rests with the victim's relatives.

Murder is punishable by execu-

accusations that the govern-

ment, which has been flexing

its military and judicial muscle

in Beirui, was still incapable of

Interior Minister Bishara

Mirhaj demanded Thursday

that the suspect he turned over

to judicial authorities for trial.

But his request went un-

Saturday for comment on

Awadah's execution. His press

office said he had gone to Damascus for talks with Syrian

officials on security matters.

Syria has 40,000 troops in

Lebanon. It is backing the gov-

ernment's efforts to reinstate

its authority that had been

eroded during the 1975-90 civil

Mr. Mirhaj was unavailable

countryside.

The case has sparked media

# Teenage killer 'executed' in Baalbek

#### holders of its papers living in Jordan tries of residence. According By Wafa Amr to United Nations Resolution Special to the Jordan Times 194, Palestinians who fled their bomes during and after the AMMAN - The Egyptian 1948 Arab-Israeli war bave the embassy in Amman has started

counting the number of Palestinian holders of the Egyptian travel documents residing in Jordan who have fled the occupied territories after the 1967 war, and who wish to return home, Arab diplomatic sources said on Saturday.

Sources at the Egyptian embassy said persons displaced in the 1967 war who wish to return to the occupied Palestinian territories were asked to fill a one-page application in order to enable the Cairo govemment and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to compile the total number of displaced persons wishing to return.

Palestinians from the Gaza Strip have been issued Egyptian documents to facilitate their movement. Unlike West Bank residents, they were not eligible to acquire Jordanian passports. The Gaza Strip was under Egyptian control until

Egyptian diplomats said the census, which already started in Egypt itself, was aimed at facilitating the work of a fourparty committee comprised of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the PLO that should meet to discuss the return of displaced Palestinians and their economic needs.

The committee, mentioned in the September PLO-Israel accord, has not been formed yet and no date has been set for it to convene,

Egypt and Jordan, which host large numbers of displaced Palestinians, as well as the PLO are contemplating holding a meeting at the ministerial level to coordinate positions prior to a meeting including Israel.

The Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord states that displaced persons have the right to re-

Unlike Palestinian refugees of 1948, displaced persons will not be compensated if they wish to remain in their coun-

right to choose between compensation and the right of re-

The PLO-Israel accord postpones the issue of refugees to the final status negotiations. PLO officials estimate the

number of displaced Palestinians, holders of Egyptian travel documents and residing in Jordan at around 50,000. They said some of them have acquired two-year Jordanian passports.

Jordanian officials said no similar move to enumerate displaced Palestinians living in Jordan has been taken yet by the Kingdom. They said Jordan's estimates of the total number of refugees and displaced Palestinians are at 1.7 million, 670,000 of whom are 1967 displaced persons.

The officials said the issue would be discussed in a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee on refugees and displaced persons. The Refugees Committee has not met since its formation. However, the issue of refugees bas been discussed in multilateral negotiations.

Some Jordanians of Palestinian origin have expressed concern over the possibility that they might bave to give up their Jordanian passport if they choose to return and live in the occupied territories. Jordanian officials said displaced Palesti-nians would have the choice, but would not be forced to return. Once they choose to return, they have to drop their Jordanian nationality, a senior Jordanian official said.

PLO officials said Israel would allow Palestinians in the self-rule areas to carry Palestinian travel documents, but not passports. This would leave Palestinians who choose to return from Jordan without a passport, making it difficult, if not impossible, for them to travel. Jordan has been the only Arab country to issue Palestinians passports.

## Hope for Afghan truce despite unabated violence

KABUL (AFP) — A senior Afghan Foreign Ministry official expressed hope Saturday for an end to fighting in Kabul between forces for and against President Burhanndin Rabbani, despite continued hostilities including rocket-fire on the Red Cross headquarters.
The official said the efforts

of a peace team beaded by independent Mujabedeen commander Jallalnddin Haqani were continuing. "We are very hopeful for a

ceasefire," said the Foreign Ministry official. "The Hagani mission is

trying to establish a longlasting solution," he added. The official, who declined to be named, said the peace delegation bad decided not to issue a statement to the press until they had achieved concrete results.

Kabnl was mainly quiet Saturday following serions fighting late Friday afternoon when Rabbani rivals were beaten back as they attempted to attack the state bus station near the Qalah Mahmud Khan However the beadquarters

of the International Commit-tee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

was struck by an incoming long-range rocket early Saturday, just as the 14-strong Red Cross staff were leaving after their morning meeting. Shrapnel from the explosioin

tore a gaping hole in the roof and wounded three Afghan personnel, one seriously. He was rushed to hospital with a broken icg. "This can happen anywhere

in Kabul," said Red Cross chief Peter Stocker. "We will not allow the incident to affect our normal humanitarian work in and around the capital."

However, Mr. Stocker said that the ICRC would beef up security measures to ensure the safety of its staff, only the lower floor of the delegation headquarters will be occupied from now on, and more sand bags will be placed around windows and open spaces for the protection of the reduced personnel there.

With both Mr. Rabbani and his rivals - former communist militiaman General Abdul Rashid Dustum and his ally Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar — taking hardline stances, negotiations for a lasting peace in Afghanistan could be lengthy.

## Security agent questioned in reopened Bush plot trial

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The trial of 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaitis charged with plotting to assassinate former U.S. President George Busb reopened Saturday with the judge and lawyers grilling a restoring law and order in the key witness for evidence which he could not producce.

Sentencing of the alleged plotters had heen set for Christmas Day. But the president of the three-member state security court, Judge Salah Al Fahad, decided then that the court needed to further question Abdul Samad Al Shatti, a security officer who headed the investigation.

Prosecutors have charged 12 defendants, including a Kuwaiti, of infiltrating the emirate with an explosives laden car to kill Mr. Bush during his April visit to Kuwait. If convicted, they could be hanged.

Two Kuwaitis, accused of sbeltering and aiding the alleged plotters, face prison sentences of up to 10 years. Mr. Shatti insisted during the hearing that he bad enough information to link at least five of the defendants to the Iraqi intelligence. He said the Kuwaitis who saw explosives

and weapons with the infiltra-

tors were guilty of not inform-

ing the police. "We are talking about sentencing people to death here," argued Mohammad Ashkanani, once of the Iraqi defendants' lawyers, "I don't care about your testimony. I want conclusive evidence.

The judge adjourned the trial till March 5 at the request of the defence lawyers who said they needed time to answer Mr. Shatti's allega-

## **Briton living in** a tent charged with

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SINGAPORE (AFP) - A 24year-old Briton. Emmanuel Nyarko Yankson, who entered Singapore as a tourist and overstayed for about three years, was charged in a magis-trate's court Saturday with housebreaking, a court official said. He was alleged to have committed the offence together with another person still at large. The two were saidto have entered a house on Dec. 9 last year and stolen about \$1.200. No plea was recorded and Mr. Yankson, a British national, was remanded in custody until Wednesday. Police said investigations were in still in prog-ress and more charges would be brought up later. Overstaying for more than 90 days carries a mandatory penalty of three strokes of the cane besides a jail term or fine. According to local press re-ports Mr. Yankson entered Singapore by road from Malaysia in 1991 and set up home in a forest area. He lived in two water-proof nylon tems which were well camouflaged by trees and thick undergrowth.

#### Soviet bigwigs wore armoured hats

MOSCOW (AP) — It turns out that Soviet leaders were even more hard-headed than the world thought. Their big fur hats were lined with steel. On Soviet holidays, members of the ruling politburo used to stand rigidly on Lenin's tomb in Red Square, watching tanks and missiles stream by in military parades. Maybe they looked so stiff because of the weight of their armoured headgear, a Russian newspaper suggested Friday. The special hats were custom made on orders from the Central Committee of the Communist Party by a defence factory that also manufactured standard-issue army helmets, the daily Segodnya reported. The hats, called "shapki" in Russian, usually were made from the prized fur of baby lambs, Siberian mu krats or young reindeer. Metal plates hidden under the fur were meant to protect the Communist bigwigs from assassination. Segodnya said the helmet factory now is offering similar hats to Russian entrepreneurs who fear attacks from gangsters.

#### Russian, French defence ministers in car accident

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and his visiting French counterpart, Francois Leotard, were involved in a car accident but were unhurt. Gen. Grachev and Mr. Leotard were being driven from Moscow to visit the Taman Infantry Division outside the capital when their limousine was hit by a truck on an icy road, the ITAR-TASS News Agency said. After the accident, the two defence chiefs continued their trip in another car, viewed the elite infantry division, and returned safely to Moscow, ITAR-TASS reported. Earlier in the day, Gen. Grachev told Mr. Leotard that Russia would oppose air strikes against Serbian forces in Bosnia unless United Nations peacekeeping forces come under attack, the Interfax News Agency re-

#### Trees bud, snow disappears in Alaska heat wave

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) - While the nation's east coast and midwest suffered bitter cold, Alaska has been struck by a winter heat wave producing budding tree limbs, wide expanses of green grass, dejected skiers and confusion. Stationary weather patterns elsewhere have funnelled a tropical jet stream all the way to the arctic coast, causing a string of record and near-record daily highs. National Weather Service meteorologists said. A lowpressure system off the Alentians and a high-pressure system off southeastern Alaska and the Canadian and U.S. nor timest has forced the warm weather northward, meteorologist Jeff Perry told Reuters.

